Monday, November 5, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 330 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ to 2899 (GLOBE/TM) or 4407 (SMART/SUN) | www.inquirer.net | Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Hotline: (02) 896-6000

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS Four-year-old Jhon Carlo Sevillano looks at poinsettia plants, usually abloom during cold months, being sold at Maalo Seedling Bank on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. After the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, Filipinos are now preparing for the Christmas season. RICARDO A. REYES

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ENTERTAINMENT
From 'idiot box' to national painkiller / F1

Obama, Romney zero in on 4 states

US election on razor's edge

MILWAUKEE—US President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney entered their final weekend of campaigning, facing a stubborn landscape of competitive states that right to the end are producing equal shares of hope and fear amid conflicting signals about the outcome.

Obama and Romney remain essentially tied in the race for the White House with razor thin margins in four key swing states, according to a Reuters/Ipsos daily poll released on Saturday.

Three days before the Nov. 6 election, both men are neck-and-neck in Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Colorado, the poll showed.

Nationally, the electorate is divided. Of likely voters polled, 47 percent said they would back Obama, the Democratic incumbent, while 46 percent said they would back Romney, the former Massachusetts governor.

The results fell within the polls' credibility interval, a tool used to account for statistical variation in Internet-based polls.

The two candidates have been locked in a tight race for weeks. Both were into final campaign outings this weekend, trying to sway a small group of remaining undecided voters and to encourage their supporters to get to the polls.

A handful of states that traditionally swing between voting for Republican and Democratic presidential candidates will determine who wins the White

OBAMA / A14

Filipino-Americans urged: Go out and vote / A16

ENERGY CHIEF President Aquino congratulates Jericho Petilla after the Leyte governor took his oath as energy secretary at Nasa 2. The President left for Laos on Sunday. KING RODRIGO

P-Noy swears in Petilla, Almendras

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday presided over the changing of the guard at the Department of Energy (DOE).

The President sequentially administered the oaths of office to newly appointed Energy Secretary Carlos Jericho Petilla and his predecessor, Jose Rene Almendras, who was named secretary to the Cabinet.

The ceremonies took place at Terminal 2 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport at noon, an hour before the President departed for Vientiane, the Laotian capital, for the two-day Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem).

Almendras, a close friend of Mr. Aquino, had held the energy portfolio from Day One of the Aquino presidency.

In a brief chat with reporters before boarding the presidential flight to Laos, Almendras denied that his las

PUNTO / A4

Dismantling agrarian reform

By Amando Doronila

THE ISSUE that President Aquino would rather forget reared its head during the long holidays devoted to remembering the dead—the slow process-

ANALYSIS

ing of the redistribution of land in Hacienda Luisita, owned by the President's family, to its farmworkers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the flagship social reform legislation handed down by his mother, the late President Cory Aquino.

The issue came to a head, after a long respite from the news pages, when the Inquirer published a story on Nov. 2,

DISMANTLING / A4

NYC lights on but desperation grows

NEW YORK—The patchy recovery from Superstorm "Sandy" exposed a fractured region on Saturday. The lights flickered on in Manhattan neighborhoods that had been dark for days, and New York City's subways rumbled and screeched through East River tunnels again.

But in shorebreak stretches of Staten Island and Queens that were all but demolished, and in broad sections of New Jersey and Long Island, gasoline was still almost impossible to come by, electricity was still lacking, temperatures were dropping and worried homeowners wandered when help would finally arrive.

Drivers in New Jersey faced 1970s-style gasoline rationing imposed by Gov. Chris Christie, while in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the defense department would distribute free fuel from five mobile stations. That effort backfired when too many people showed up.

NYC LIGHTS / A21

'Palparan last of his kind in AFP'

ARMY chief Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista KIMRC RICACHO

By Marlon Ramos

RETIRED Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, infamously tagged as "berdugo" (butcher) by militant activists, is the last of his kind in the military, so says Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, the chief of the Philippine Army.

Bautista said the Armed Forces of the Philippines had been strictly monitoring the performance of its officers and enlisted personnel regarding the military's program to instill respect for human rights among soldiers on the battlefield.

In a recent interview with Inquirer reporters and editors, Bautista said the AFP had been "seriously" addressing allegations of human rights violations against the military by prosecuting erring officers.

"Is there someone like him in the Army? Not any more. Even you can answer that," Bautista replied when asked if the likes of Palparan still existed in the AFP. "I think even you can say that the military's human rights record now is much improved as compared to the previous years."

PALPARAN / A8

Group offers to help Mar stop 'jueteng'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Where the police apparently fear to tread, a nongovernmental group is stepping in to drive out the claim of barrister that "jueteng" no longer exists in Pampanga—and stamp out the illegal numbers racket.

The provincial chapter of the People Power Volunteers for

GROUP / A12

Second FRONTPAGE

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At 54, I started suffering nerve pains of post "herpetic neuralgia." It escalated to the point that I was debilitated for most of the day. Pain attacks were like fish hooks embedded on 3 parts of my chest and belly. Like my flesh was being ripped apart. I awoke everyday feeling exhausted fighting the pains.

By mid-afternoon my stamina levels were in zero and I already feel like an invalid. I went to several doctors for pain management, neuro treatments, immunology experts, even to an acupuncturists. No real relief.

By age 58, besides my cardio maintenance meds, I took in 5 other expensive medicines just to get by. I told my wife that I will be preparing to retire early. I prayed to God, "Lord, unless you intervene, I don't have the means to carry on this way."

While attending my nephew's wedding in Davao, a friend introduced me to MX3. Capsules after he noticed my distraught face. Reluctantly I took in some during our 2-day stay. I was surprised! I felt better, was able to sleep straight through the nights and load lessed then the entire time with some exercise. My friend helped me get a month's supply. During that month, I got rid of all my other meds and just kept using MX3 to sustain me.

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Villarosa wedding sponsors should have declined, say solons

By Gil Cabacungan

"It" should have just said "No."

At least two lawmakers from the prosecution team that impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona believe that retired Supreme Court (SC) Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura Sr. and incumbent Justice Arturo Brion should have turned down an invitation to be godfathers at the wedding of a daughter of former Rep. Jose Villarosa.

"It was faulty judgment for the two to become the 'kamador' of someone they had a hand in acquitting. Let many be acquitting," said Isabela Rep. Giorgidi Aggabao, one of 20 lawmakers who succeeded in obtaining the guilty verdict against Corona.

Villarosa and six farmers were convicted by a lower court and meted out the death penalty for the murder of Michael and Paul Quimso—sons of Ricardo Quimso, a political rival of Villarosa. The brothers were gunned down at a birthday party in Mambusao, Dendenial Binduro, in December 1997.

The case is pending in the Supreme Court.

"I believe that in order to avoid any sense of impropriety, whether imagined or not, they should have not accepted the invitation to be godparents. Once you become an SC justice, you become judicially constituted," said Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, a spokesperson of the House prosecution team.

Robert Quimso, a brother of the victims, has loudly protested the "leniency" of Nachura and Brion mingling with the accused, and raised questions on the "propriety of (all) past and present relationships and decisions with regard to Mr. Villarosa."

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) under Nachura had recommended to the Court of Appeals that Villarosa (declared of incumbent Occidental Mindoro Rep. Ma. Amelita Villaraza, widow of former Prime Asst. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) be acquitted.

The case is on appeal to the SC Second Division of which Brion is a member.

But Nachura did not see any conflict of interest in his absences in the Villarosa and his recommendation on their cases.

"The fact that the Court of Appeals, also on the basis of the same evidence on record, acquitted some and convicted other accused to effect validated the OSG position on the matter," Nachura said in a letter defending his decision to stand as godfather to Villarosa's daughter.

Aggabao, however, said that while their actions may be seen as removing them still within the boundaries of the lawyer's moral code.

"I agree with he view that it is not unethical behavior which may be actionable. It does raise a doubt on their sense of delicadeza (propriety), which is unfortunate, but I don't think that is sufficiently wrong to breach ethical standards among judges," said Aggabao.

Quakes hit Ilocos, Davao

A 6.6-MAGNITUDE earthquake shook several towns of Ilocos Sur early yesterday while a stronger 7.2-magnitude temblor hit Davao del Sur at noon.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) placed the epicenter of the 6.6-magnitude earthquake at 38 kilometers northwest of San Emilio, Ilocos Sur, or a depth of 25 kilometers.

The agency's Seismological Observation and Earthquake Prediction Division said the tremor at 2:40 a.m. was felt at intensity 3 in Sta. Catalina, San Vicente, Cauayan, and Ilagan.

Before the temblor in Ilocos Sur, Phivolcs recorded 2.9-magnitude quakes in Luna, Gonzaga, Minalin, and Lagawe, Ilagan.

At 12:10 p.m., Phivolcs said a 5.5-magnitude earthquake hit Davao del Sur. Its epicenter was placed at 67 km northeast of Don Marcelino town at a depth of 117 km. Antonette L. Andrade

Dismantling agrarian reform

From page A1

reporting a bill that had been introduced in the House of Representatives proposing to extend CARP by five years from its expiration in 2014 and that the measure would strengthen some of some of its provisions.

House Bill No. 6654, which was filed by Cagayan Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and his brother, Bayi. Mariano Rodriguez of Manila Mindanao, asks Congress to extend the coverage of the Agrarian reform program extended the "stalling row" of landlords.

They recalled that on June 14, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said a press briefing that farmers now and from 2014, "all agricultural lands shall be reserved and distributed to qualified beneficiaries."

Unease over the slow pace of transferring ownership of land-tilled estates to tillers resurfaced with the Supreme Court's July 9 reversal and even rulings of Mr. Aquino in public opinion polls.

The President is currently enjoying praises for his initiatives in conducting a framework agreement for peace in Mindanao with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on the Bangsamoro homeland.

But the reaction of Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes to the proposal raised an.

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Total readiness

The officer of the extension would be to keep in the finish of the **farmers landed reasons for a longer period and delay their distribution to farmworkers** deemed as beneficiaries of the **agrarian reform program.**

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P-Noy swears in Petilla, Almendras

From page A1

ent Cabinet posting may yet another bureaucratic layer, which would potentially overlap with the functions of Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa.

Almendras, however, pointed to the supremacy of a Cabinet resolution of their oversight on the use and uses of government, including the affairs of the 26 departments, called line agencies, under the executive branch.

"There is a need for coordination among the agencies," he said.

While Ochoa has been under the radar, distancing himself from the media most of the time, Almendras has traveled with the President here and abroad.

Almendras cited his previous function in explaining his new job.

"Secretaries like me before was so focused on just energy (concerns). But there are initiatives that the President (likes to embark on), isn't it? And, in that case, he wants (that) somebody is the one following through," Almendras said.

By coordinating the work of the different line agencies has always been the turf of the executive secretary, dubbed the "Little President" because of the enormous power that came with the office.

As the President's top political lieutenant, the executive secretary speaks the mind of the President and is the sounding board of the secretaries.

The executive secretary likewise signs presidential appointments, memorandums, executive orders and other presidential issuances, and meets behind closed doors with senators and representatives, or the Cabinet of the President, to advance his political and legislative agenda.

During the Arroyo administration, the executive secretary even signed contracts for awarding PSC-million.

Not a new post

"The Cabinet secretary has been there for...what?...since 1987. So it's not a new position. It has always been there doing, noted," Almendras said.

"So Gerry is also another thing as a Cabinet assistant person. This was started during the time of President (GMA) Supino."

The post was last held by Ricardo Saludo before he was appointed chairs of the Civil Service Commission in the waning days of the Arroyo presidency.

"It's a whole structure on how somebody below the secretary level is actually working together with the others to create a more dynamic process," Almendras said.

Silent is a staff position. Cabinet secretary is a staff position, so it doesn't conflict with any of the line positions. The line positions are very clear. PMS (Presidential Management Staff) is very clear, the Office of the Executive Secretary—those are line functions. Cabinet secretary is a staff function. It's in a staff box," he added.

Almendras disclosed that his position would not fall under any particular department or office, but stopped short of saying whether he would be under Ochoa, or directly reporting to Mr. Aquino.

"As in as (department) chair, (the Cabinet secretary) is not part of the (cases ... it's not aligned. (with) any department," he said.

Almendras said "no" when asked by the Inquirer whether he would "take some functions" of either the PMS headed by Julia Abadao the executive secretary.

Shadow secretary

But there is one thing that the public should expect from the secretary to the Cabinet.

"You will not ever see me. We are (doing) a staff function. We completely disappear into the bureaucracy," Almendras said.

"I'm simply not to do certain things and that's the role that we're supposed to play."

Petilla

Petilla will officially assume his post on Monday after a turnover ceremony at the Department where Hon Governor Ma. Michaela Bagaban will serve as acting governor until elections are held in 2013.

What made the three-term governor accept the Cabinet post?

"We have a President who is actually ... very sincere. He really wants changes in the way we do things (and) being on hand to where we were before. In other words, you know, improve the country, make us competitive, and have something. You can see his sincerity," Petilla said.

He said that all secretaries were actually sacrificing in accepting Cabinet assignments.

"And for me, if the job was offered and it was offered, the least I can do is actually help the President, help the country and help all the people sacrificing here. And that's the main reason why I actually accepted the post," he said.

Challenges

"There are many challenges, many problems, but I think (they're) nothing new," Petilla said. "I'm taking off from where Secretary Almendras left...I am not going to reinvent anything."

He pledged to "to get a grip of the entire situation in the energy industry and that includes, of course, the power generators, the cooperatives and transmission lines that we have."

"I will look at the 20-year (energy) plan that has been started already. It hasn't been released yet but we have to look at it and see where we are going," he said.

Asked about the most pressing problem in the energy sector, Petilla said: "It's a combination. It's a push and pull."

He explained at length the intertwined relationship between power generators, electric cooperatives, the National Power Corp., and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

He said the country had ample power supply in Luzon and Mindanao.

"(But) we're crunching on (the) line in terms of the supply power as compared to the demand. ... When I say it's (the) line, it means that it all of a sudden we increase our consumption by 10 percent because we have industrialization, then we have a problem. But that's taking everything into consideration," he said.

On the Philippines having the highest power rates in Asia, Petilla insisted "to get a grip" of the causes of the problem first before proposing a solution.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - November 7, 2011
Vivo Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: PHIL 1:1-4

If I may advise you, in the name of Christ and if you can hear it as the voice of love, if we share the same spirit and are capable of mercy and compassion, then (Sing of you make me very happy. Love one love, one spirit, one feeling, in nothing through rivalry or vain conceit. On the contrary let each of you gently consider the others as more important than yourselves. Do not seek your own interest, but rather that of others.

Gospel: Luke 14: 12-14

Jesus addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Reflection:

Maybe help must ask a and that when we give something it would be our act of delight it will such humility that he or she forgives us for giving it! There is a kind of giving that humiliates the receiver, laying down an insufferable debt of gratitude. That kind of giving is worse than withholding. The humble and to say that the best kind of giving was when you did not know to whom you were giving and when the receiver did not know from whom he or she was receiving. There is a purity about that, nothing has been tainted by the ego, nothing tarnished, everything is spotless.

Passengers win damage suit vs PAL

THE SUPREME Court has finally resolved a 21-years-old suit filed against Philippine Airlines (PAL) and a travel agency for the right of seven Filipino students who missed two hours on a stopover in Hong Kong after being bumped off their flight to the Chinese territory.

In an Oct. 17 decision, the Supreme Court's Third Division denied the PAL's plea to reverse a 2006 Court of Appeals ruling that ordered the airline and payment of attorney's fees to Francisco Luo Lim, Manuel Lamsiong and the heirs of the late Henry Go, all of Cebu City.

"Having proven the existence of a contract of carriage between respondents Lim and Go, and the fact of unexpected stopover by PAL, it is obligated to, in accordance with, it is more than [PAL] furnished in contract of carriage with respondents Lim and Go," the high court said in a 14-page decision penned by Justice Diosdado Peralta.

Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., division chair, and the three other division members — Associate Justices Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura Abad and Jose Mendoza, concurred with the decision.

Lim, Lamsiong and Go bought round trip PAL tickets from Residente Tours and Travel Inc. on Feb. 22, 1991, for a trip to Hong Kong on Feb. 26 where they were to purchase weighing scales and printing paper equipment for their business.

They took off from Mactan International Airport in Cebu on Feb. 25 and landed in Manila for their morning flight to Hong Kong the following day. However, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Lim and his friends' three names were not on the passenger list.

Only Lamsiong was able to take the flight. Lim and Go, both waitlisted, followed on a late flight. However, as Lim and Go were late and Lamsiong was unable to conduct a proper negotiation, the weighing scale ordered was rerouted to another viable destination of the consolidating area equipment left Hong Kong and refused to use their equipment.

The businessmen said they could have made P1.56 million from the deals and consequently sued PAL, then partly government-owned, for damages. They also sought claimed P750,000 in moral damages after accusing PAL staff of scolding and humiliating him.

A regional trial court found the 344-seat flight was overbooked by 44 seats. Both the RTC and the Court of Appeals noted that PAL and Residente Tours officers had agreed prior to the trip that their confirmed bookings for the Manila-Hong Kong leg had been erroneously cancelled and that the flight was on official status due to the overbooking of passengers.

In 1996, the RTC ordered PAL and Residente Tours to pay each of the complainants P75,000 as moral damages and P25,000 in attorney's fees.

The Court of Appeals increased the award of damages to P200,000 each for exemplary, moral and temperate damages, and the attorney's fees to P60,000. The Supreme Court modified the decision by deleting the award of moral damages to the deceased Go, as well as the award of temperate damages to Lamsiong, since he was able to make the flight. — Jerome Aning

till OFW wants to go home

A 47-YEAR-OLD undocumented overseas Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia, who lost her eyesight after suffering a stroke, is seeking government help to return home.

"I hope they can help me go home, even if I die there, just to hang an urn in the Philippines," Virgina Gubiling, 47, of Negros Occidental said.

Migrants Middle East coordinator Arlie Leonard Ilustrisimo said Gubiling sought assistance at the Philippine consulate in Jeddah but received a scolding instead.

Sought for comment, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Raul Hernandez told the Inquirer, "Let me study this to see exactly [what] is available for [rehabilitation and appropriate action."

Tina G. Santos

Political immaturity to doom 'turncoat' bill–Joker

By Carby Vernusan

PHILCZONE: political butterflies flitting from one party to another through a ban is one thing, the weakness of Philippine politics is another, according to Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Analyzing a bill that would penalize political turncoatism and provide state subsidies to political parties, Arroyo warned that the apparent lack of political maturity of many candidates would spell the doom of the pending Senate bill.

Arroyo believes Senate Bill 3214 may not pass at all in the remaining months of the 15th Congress that ends in June.

Aside from the issue of political maturity, Arroyo questioned the bill's provision mandating the Commission on Elections to determine which political parties should receive a portion of the proposed P950 million state subsidy "when the Comelec's main task is to administer honest elections."

Arroyo also noted that with the Philippines' multiparty system, the selection of subsidy beneficiaries would be hard to justify despite the criteria laid down in the bill sponsored by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

"Ours is not like the United States with only two parties and where it is unimaginable to switch parties mednesday," Arroyo said in a radio interview yesterday.

Besides, the senator said, he did not believe a state subsidy to political groups, which Angara insists would keep them from being beholden to private donors, "would prevent political armies from accumulating from one party to another."

Arroyo said politicians usually switched parties depending on who was in power.

In 1995, congressmen from the Lakas ng Demokratang Pilipino grouped over to the Laban NUCD after President Fidel Ramos moved to Hilabumbong.

The same Lakas congressmen stumbled for dals to the Laban ng Masang Pilipino when Joseph Estrada succeeded Ramos. And again, many returned to Laban/PDCD after Estrada was ousted from Malacañang in January 2001.

Angara appealed for support for the bill he sponsored in plenary in August, saying that the measure would make elections "fairer and more equitable."

Arroyo, however, is wary about the bill passing Senate scrutiny at all.

He said the measure addresses two things: "turncoatism and political party subsidy. Congress should probably address the two issues separately, he said.

Arroyo said the bill may look good on paper but the reality of Philippine politics is another thing.

For example, even if the Comelec selects which parties would get a subsidy, there may be cases on the local level where candidates for governor or mayor would be part of Senator with several parties – both national and local – to ensure their victory.

Arroyo said the idea of a political party subsidy works in the US and several European countries because they have a two-party system and the division of funds is limited to only two groups.

Weather warning out for Mindanao

TUE PAGASA has issued yesterday warned of possible flash floods and landslides in Mindanao, with the tropical cyclone Sendong (TD 22) expected to bring moderate to heavy rains in the region.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration forecaster Samuel Duran told the Inquirer the PAGA was expected to spawn low pressure area (LPA) the explained the LPA are usually embedded in the ITCZ but there was a small chance they could develop into tropical cyclone.

The weather bureau's 5 p.m. forecast said light rains were expected in the Cagayan Valley in north to Aurora and Quezon in the south of the said front affecting eastern northern Luzon.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated showers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Group offers to help Mar

Front page A1

Rizalists (PPVR) has offered to help the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) arrest jueteng collectors in the province more than a week after Interior Secretary Mar Roxas asked the police to drop the numbers racket.

"We want [Roxas] to deputize us to help the [DILG's special project group] to make arrests and prove there is jueteng. It should be stopped because it is not just a game or form of entertainment," said Rodolfo Mamigao, PPVR chapter chair.

Mamigao said "those who control jueteng have control/collection in our province."

The PPVR was founded on Aug. 20, 2011, with former Civil Service Commission head Karina Bautista Constantino-David and some 388 civil society groups as members.

Roxas mission order

On Oct. 24, Roxas gave the police a month to stop jueteng in Pampanga.

He issued the order during a Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) meeting attended by local officials, including Pampanga Gov. Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Boyet" Pineda.

Catherine Deveza-Pineda was in 1998, 2000 and 2004. Boyet Pineda denied financing the game and, in one case, was cleared of charges that he was giving payola to police and local officials.

During the RPOC meeting at Clark Freeport, top police officials told Roxas that jueteng had been stopped in Pampanga and elsewhere in Central Luzon.

Roxas, however, told police officials that jueteng was being played in Pampanga, saying his informants were able to place bets and obtain jueteng bet sheets.

Senior Supt. Wilben Mayor, spokesman, Pampanga police director, nonetheless announced the proposal of the PPVR. "It should be an all-out/commonly action against jueteng. It's not only a police job," he said on Saturday.

Mamigao said jueteng operations were using the government-backed Small Town Lottery (STL) as a front.

Police denials notwithstanding, it is common knowledge in Central Luzon that where there is STL, there is jueteng.

The illegal operation is revealed when cashier (also manager) account number—a bet and the manner/s order of a pair of winning numbers for STL—which also gets a corresponding prize money.

Mamigao said his group has information that some collaborators (bet-collectors), in collusion with cohorts, were not remitting STL collections and instead pocket the money.

"That when a pair of numbers wagered in STL wins, these collaborators give the prize money to winners. In this scheme, the illegal operation is from within the STL system," he said.

"This government can stop STL but it cannot stop jueteng until the financiers and operators hear President Aquino order the police to stop jueteng," he said.

Chief Supt. Edgardo Ladao, Central Luzon police director, said the police would host a confer-

ROXAS

ence between the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the STL agents in Central Luzon on Nov. 7.

Ladao said police officials would attend the meeting to review the implementing rules and regulations of STL so they could help the PCSO enforce them and identify violations.

He declined to give more details of the meeting to be held at the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas here, saying it was primarily between the PCSO and STL agents.

The operations agency introduced STL in 2008 to stop jueteng, giving private concessionaires permits to run the game. The STL mechanics are similar to jueteng's.

The private corporations given permits were Lake Tahoe, which was authorized to run STL in Angeles City; Sunset Bay in Bataan; Diamond Gaming Alliance, Ismael C. Corp. and CTS Prime Ventures in Bataan Hills; Northkoto Corp. in Tarlac; Golden Mark in Olongapo City and Global International Philippines in Zambales.

But Mamigao said the combination "removed any risks because STL contracts are due to end in June [2013]."

"But if the [STL agents] are really serious in making STL work, they should really stop jueteng," he said.

Jueteng in seven regions grossed P2.925 billion monthly according to a report the police submitted to the Senate in November 2010.

The STL made only P9.5 billion in gross receipts from February 2006 to August 2010, PCSO officials told the Senate.

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Across the NATION

Romblon fishing villagers raise alarm over oil slick

ROMBLON—A fishing village in this capital, Romblon, raised an alarm over an oil slick that has affected their catch as the water close to where a tugboat ran aground on Oct. 24 at the height of Typhoon "Ofel."

The tugboat MV Marilao ran aground 25 meters from the shoreline of Barangay Tingod on Tablas Island. It was towing a cargo barge that carried beverage bottles from Manila to Cebu.

After the bottles reach full capacity from the vicinity swelled of fuel, said Sun Agustin Marco Emmanuel Maderazo by phone on Sunday.

The condition of Tingod and Cobrador is still unknown.

Julius Mabe, 35, adviser of the Gobernadillo group fisherfolk ng mga Mabe, ng Sitiogpichi, reminders said they observed a film of oil on the water's surface during the first few days after the boat ran aground.

"The other day, I gave assistance to our dog because we could not eat them. The dog vomited," Maderazo said.

Romblon town guard commander Lt. Geoffrey Espaldon said they placed an oil containment boom around the vessel since Nov. 1 to prevent the diesel from spreading. Marlene Grace, Inquirer Southern Luzon

18 lawmakers don't have challengers

But Comelec chairman reminds supporters to still vote for them

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ELECTION hopefuls running unopposed in the 2013 midterm balloting cannot be too confident of their victory, according to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Those running without rivals could only be declared winners until someone actually voted for them, reminded Comelec Chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr.

He said these candidates must remind their supporters during the designated campaign season, which is three months prior the elections, to still vote for them on election day.

"Even if they are unopposed candidates, we need to open at least one ballot box before proclaiming the winners," said Brillantes in an interview with reporters to be explained that the election body still needed to have a record of votes for these unchallenged candidates.

Under an automated election, the Comelec would have to wait for days from one precinct to be transmitted before it could proclaim an unchallenged candidate a winner. But such candidate needs only one vote to win, said Brillantes.

At least 845 aspirants have filed their certificates of candidacy to participate in the congressional derby next year. Of these, 18 are running unchallenged, including incumbent Representatives Mannix Peregrino of Izamiguin, Rodolfo Farinas of Ilocos Norte and Exequiel Gonzaga of Tarlac.

The other unopposed candidates are Representatives Josephine Lacson-Noel of Malvar, Bta. Theresa Hontiveros-Baraquel of Manila, Marcelino Teves of Masbate, Jose Christopher Belmonte of Quezon City, Maria Rachel Arenas of Pangasinan, Dakila Carlo of Quezon province, Reynaldo Tiburi of Oriental Mindoro, Gerald Anthony Gullas of Cebu, Mario Gimarez Zamora and Rommel Arnaiz of Guimaras, Joseph Gilbert Violago and Joseph Francisco of Siargao Islands, and Joel Roy and Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal.

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- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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A STUDENT paints a mural Kalahayong Gangrad ng Lipa on Monday to create awareness of taking care of the environment.

Group brings environmental advocacy to Lipa

By Hannah Erika Lacuba
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LIPA CITY—The group called Philippines Love Freedom Network has attained lots more of the number of murals its members have done since getting around the country to 2008 to paint on walls of public places in this city—Residence ng conserving and protecting our environment and aquatic resources.

But head Artist Arnulfo Guevarra, 37, also called AG Batis, who founded the group in 2013, said they must have painted more than 300 walls that counted on the participation of 20,000 people in 23 provinces north to south of the country.

On Monday, the group was joined by 60 students and some teachers at the city college—Residence ng Lungsod ng Lipa—in Barangay Dagatan, Lipa City, in Batangas for the painting of trees, animals and flowers on the school's walls that measured 250 meters long and 2 meters high.

Before the mural painting, a discussion was held with the participants on the importance and role of students in the environment, said Jessie Delos Reyes, coordinator of the group's Conserve and Protect Oceans program.

The group has painted murals in Calamba in 2010, San Juan and Tiaol in 2011, and Batangas City in 2012.

Batis said the group had also traveled in Singapore and Indonesia along with other environmental groups.

He said he chose murals as a medium to convey the message to the people in the importance of dolphins and other endangered animals because "in painting, you can convey your message, and the people would listen."

Batis said painting a 250-meter-long wall required 100 liters of paint. For the mural painting at the city college in Lipa, Mayor Meynard Sotelo donated the liters of paint.

Rene Jose Ordinario, 18, a student of biology science at the city college, said the joined Monday's activity so people would understand the importance of marine and terrestrial animals.

Vizcaya barangay leaders act to cure dole 'failures'

SOLANO, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Officials of this province's 275 villages are pushing for the formation of school boards at the barangay level, an education reform measure hoped to address problems left unsolved by the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Eduardo Tinsayao, Nueva Vizcaya chapter president of the barangay Councilors' League of the Philippines (BELAP), said that despite its good intentions, the 4Ps has not fully addressed the problems of reducing the number of dropouts and out-of-school youths at the grassroots.

"With the creation of the barangay school boards, we will now take the problem of education to the basics, realizing that this cannot be solved by simply giving doles to parents with children of school age," he said.

The program, he said, seeks to transform their communities "from one that relegates the education of children entirely to the Department of Education to one that makes every adult equal responsibility for their education."

Cash assistance

"[The 4Ps] has been central to keep students in school by giving parents cash assistance. Studies have shown, however, that in many instances, this has failed," he said.

The 4Ps provides poor households P500 as monthly stipend and up to P900 additional allowances for the family's first three children who are in school. Those not schooled on condition that the children attend classes regularly and undergo regular medical examination in the nearest government health center.

Tinsayao's chief cause for which students need the money from the government is easy to overprice chops, so parents used their money as capital for a fishing business or for gambling, instead of giving it to their children to encourage them to go to school.

On Wednesday, the BCLP chapter here finished the first of a series of trainings meant to help the more than 3,000 village officials of the province enact an ordinance that will establish village-based school boards.

"We hope that a barangay-based school board will encourage our constituents to take more active participation in determining the needs of our community or otherwise," said Beatriz Umlibo-ong, chair of Canibang village here.

A recent survey by the Synergo Foundation showed that only 65 percent of school-age children in Nueva Vizcaya are in school. Of this number, only 79 percent reach the ninth grade, lower than the 7th 4 percent recorded in 2008. Melvin Kimayes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

4 drown in Iloilo, Catanduanes

AN ALL SOULS' DAY outing turned tragic after two youngsters drowned while swimming in a river in Barotac Nuevo town in Iloilo. In Catanduanes, a mom and her 2-year-old son drowned at the sea off Caramoran town in the evening of All Souls Day when the motorboat they were riding capsized.

The body of Harmon Jagdinguay, 10, was found around noon of Nov. 2 along the Jalaur River in Barangay Tabucan in Barotac Nuevo, 30 km northeast of Iloilo City.

The remains of his companion Ian Manuel Solilo, 26, was recovered by search and rescue groups around 6 p.m. the next day in the region's rice belt in the neighboring town of Dumangas, according to PSI Alejo Jolito of the Barotac police station.

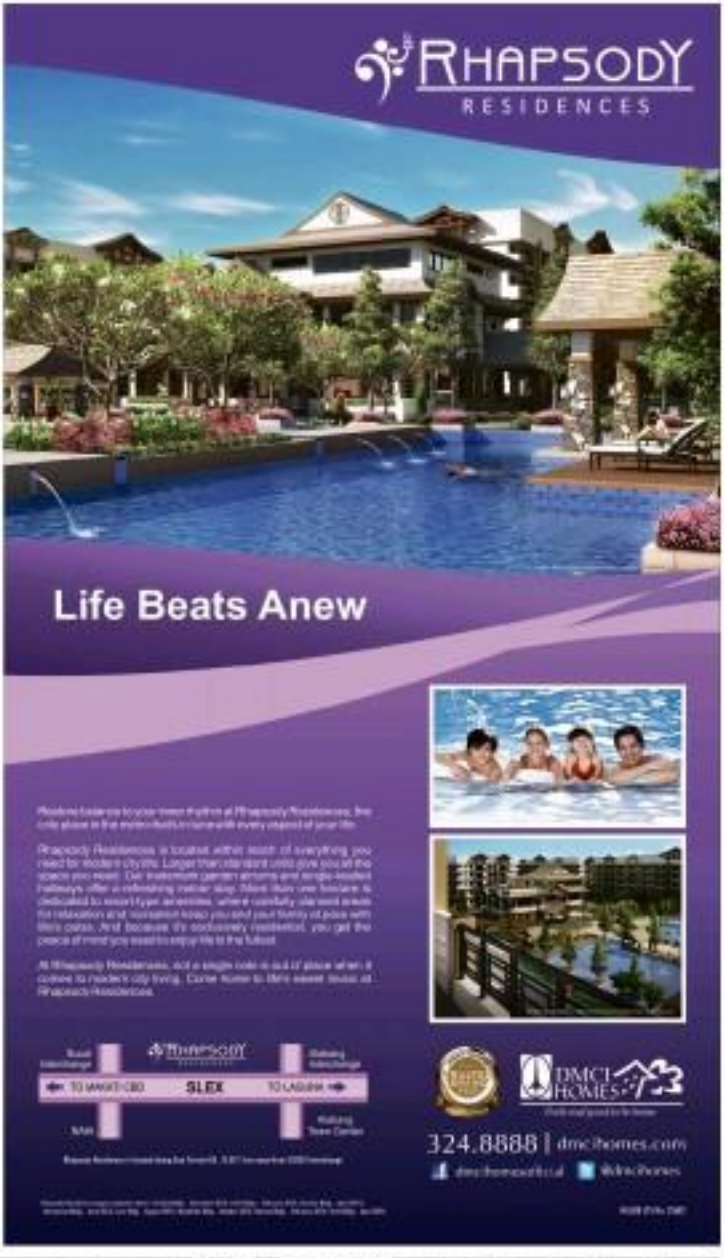
The two were part of a group of five youngsters who went swimming in Barotac Nuevo Tabucan.

Citing results of their investigation, Jolito said Jagdinguay cried for help when the two swept by strong currents to deeper waters. Solilo tried to rescue her but he too was carried by the current.

Jagdinguay was brought to the Jose Joaquin Monfort Medical Center in Barotac Nuevo but was declared dead on arrival.

In Mac, Catanduanes, Jessa Bacsal, 45, and his son Jess Josh of barangay Bariw, were on board the banca traveling from Bariw to Barangay Taclay, also of Caramoran, on Nov. 2 when the wooden vessel apparently hit something at a shallow portion of the sea at about 7 p.m., causing the father and son to drown, according to a report reaching Catanduanes police on Saturday.

Residents found the bodies of Bacsal and his son, which were brought to the Caramoran rural health unit for post-mortem examination. Senior P Sergio dr., Inquirer Visayas and Mindanao Bureau, Inquirer Northern Luzon



FINAL PITCHES: Republican candidate Mitt Romney (left) and his Democratic opponent, US President Barack Obama, remain essentially tied in the race for the White House, according to an opinion poll.

Obama, Romney zero in on 4 states

From page A1

Homer. All of them are close.

In one of the biggest prizes of the election...Ohio...Obama has a very slight lead over Romney with 46 percent compared to 43 percent support among likely voters, the poll showed.

In Florida, another big prize, they are tied at 47 percent.

In Virginia, Obama leads Romney 48 percent to 45 percent among likely voters. In Colorado, Romney leads Obama 47 percent to 45 percent.

"It's really going to come down to the wire," Ipsos pollster Julia Clark said, adding that Obama still had a better likelihood of winning the 270 state electoral votes needed to create victory.

But with the data tight in the swing states for both candidates, she added, "I don't think we can count any of them in the bag yet."

"The electoral map does favor Obama," Clark said. "It's just so on a razor's edge."

The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online poll is measured using a credibility interval, which in the case of the national polls is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for likely voters.

Late pitches

On Saturday, three days before voters choose whether to give him a second term, Obama dashed from small rural towns in Ohio to this city in Wisconsin for late pitches to a large rally with a rowdy crowd.

Romney, accompanied by his wife, Ann, started the day by speaking to supporters at a rally in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, then moving on to Iowa and Colorado, trumpeting a "pro-country first" message to voters.

The President, fighting to avoid being ousted out of office four years after a rousing and historic victory sought to shore up his standing in Midwestern states that had backed him overwhelmingly last time.

He narrowed a defensive posture in Iowa and later in Wisconsin, states where his advisers had openly scoffed at his rival's chances only a few months ago.

Romney, in the closing days of his second quest for the White House, worked to lure over the unbelievers running through the Republican Party to overcome the challenges he confronts in building an Electoral College majority.

He fought to secure critical states like Florida and Virginia without allowing rich areas to slip away.

But after hundreds of millions of dollars in television commercials, months of campaigning and countless political barbs, the race was locked in the same dynamic that has defined it from the start: Obama, burdened by four years of economic struggle and partisan animosity but still an incumbent in his party, holding the slightest of edges in Ohio and other swing states, and Romney, forever the hopes of conservatives and voters concerned the nation is on the wrong path, fighting to overtake him.

Last defining question

The last defining question was whether Romney's campaign had hit a ceiling—blunted by Obama's opportunity to show leadership in the deadly aftermath of Superstorm "Sandy"—or whether he was on the verge of mounting a promised in a dramatic finale.

Supporters, donors and advisers to Romney, in battleground states and at the campaign headquarters in Boston, said in conversations over the last two days that they had hoped to be closing the campaign in a stronger position, with clear leads in at least some contested states.

Here, several of them said, their optimism comes from the uncertainty in the closing hours of a contest, rather than any affirmative command of the race.

Obama raced through four states on Saturday as he tried to build enthusiasm among Democrats, appearing after a performance here by the singer Katy Perry in urgently tell a crowd of thousands, "We have come too far to turn back now; we have come too far to let our hopes grow weary."

Romney sought to tap into disappointment and discontent among voters as he rallied supporters, telling thousands of them in Hazelwood, Colorado, that "throughout his campaign, President Obama has tried to convince you the last four years have been a success."

Sleepless nights

The outlook expressed by both campaigns belied the tight nature of the contest in at least seven states.

In their respective headquarters, advisers made contending cases for why their candidate had the clearest path to 270 electoral votes, but when pressed they admitted to sleepless nights about a result that was expected to come down to only a sliver of the electorate.

The pursuit of Ohio's 18 electoral votes drew the most attention, with the candidates scheduling multiple stops there before Tuesday but the rest of the landscape was also highly volatile.

Obama had the edge in Nevada and Romney in North Carolina, strategists agreed, while Colorado, Florida, Iowa, New Hampshire, Virginia and Wisconsin were key draws.

Here in Wisconsin, Romney rallied voters on Friday as his running mate, Rep. Paul D. Ryan, a native son, fought to rewrite the historical trends of a state that has not voted for a Republican presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Obama, who carried Wisconsin by 14 percentage points in 2008, arrived here in Milwaukee on Saturday afternoon. His campaign advisers thought the contest here was narrow enough to send him back to the state on Monday, but a rally with an even bigger crowd was planned for Tuesday.

"It's always tantalizingly close for Republicans, and I assume that's where we are at with this one," said James E. Doyle, a former Democratic governor of Wisconsin, who was among the early supporters of Obama.

Sandy's interruption

Strategists on both sides agreed that Superstorm Sandy had at the very least interrupted Romney's late-stage pronunciation of Obama in a way that may have wasted the sense of upward movement that had been surrounding his campaign.

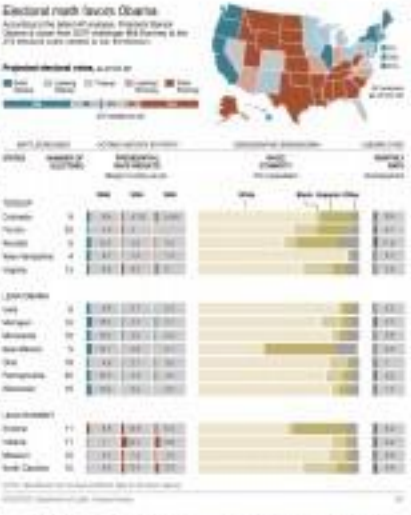
The close nature of the presidential race was underscored by the travel schedules, which left the candidates crossing paths, including stops on Saturday afternoon only a few kilometers apart in Dubuque, Iowa, across the Mississippi River from Wisconsin.

In 2008, Obama carried Iowa and Wisconsin by wide margins, but he has struggled to lock down his support this year, creating an opening for Republicans.

Iowa advantage

"He's trying to do everything he can to rekindle what he had four years ago, but it's not there," said Gov. Terry E. Branstad of Iowa, a Republican.

"Initially there were a lot of people who were against Obama and weren't that wild about Romney, but over the last few months that has changed, and now there is really genuine enthusiasm for Romney."



The President had a 5-point advantage in Iowa, according to a Des Moines Register poll released Saturday evening, which found Obama with 47 percent compared to 42 percent for Romney. The poll, conducted Monday through Friday, has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The candidates, as they near the end of their contest, are intensely familiar with the metrics and minutiae of the state-by-state races.

In Iowa, for example, Democrats were pointing to 17,000 voter registrations in the past month, which narrowed the Republican advantage to about 1,400 voters, down from almost 31,000 a month ago.

The campaign played out on Saturday evenly on the terrain that Obama won four years ago, when he expanded the battleground to Virginia and North Carolina for the first time in a generation.

Republicans portrayed Romney's late push into Pennsylvania, where he was set to have a campaign rally on Sunday, as a sign of strength.

"You have to look at what they're doing now," said Gov. Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania, a Republican. "They're mapping here. They're spending money here. The race is close, and that's where you try to push it over the line."

Hail Mary

Yet Democrats portrayed the move as an act of desperation, arguing that the state has not voted for a Republican presidential candidate since the elder George Bush in 1988.

"It's a what I would describe as a Hail Mary," said former Gov. Edward G. Rendell, a Democrat. "They have found out that it's not likely they'll carry Ohio, and the only way to do the electoral math is to carry Pennsylvania or a Michigan or even a Minnesota."

An aide to Romney said the campaign had decided to compete in Pennsylvania only after taking steps to finance advertising campaigns and get-out-the-vote operations fully in other states.

The indication was that advisers viewed the state as worth a try given the deadlocked national poll numbers, but not as the solution of anything else.

In interviews, aides to Obama said he remained competitive in Florida, a state that both sides had viewed as more favorable to Romney, who would have a hard road to victory without its 29 electoral votes.

Romney's campaign officials said they were less certain about Virginia, ignoring with Obama's strategists that a surge in polling in the state for Romney after the first presidential debate had subsided, though they still preferred a victory there.

Waiting for Tuesday

Romney was scheduled to make two stops in Virginia on Monday including one in the northern suburbs, a region that was pivotal to Obama's becoming the first Democratic presidential candidate in four decades to win the state. It is part of the Romney campaign's strategy of winning more voters who supported Obama in 2008.

Neil Newhouse, a pollster for the Romney campaign, said the campaign had wooed enough Obama supporters turnout to make a decisive difference.

"I think we did what we needed to do," Newhouse said. "Now we're going to find out Tuesday." *Reports from New York Times News Service, Reuters and AFP*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Marcoses in contempt

EDITORIAL

ABOUT TWO weeks ago, human rights victims ruing the Marcos dictatorship won another, important legal victory. Whether this will bring the victims closer to realizing the legal justice they have already received—in 1992, the United States District Court for Hawaii ordered the estate of ferdinand Marcos to pay the victims nearly $2 billion in damages—remains to be seen.

But the new judgment puts additional pressure on the Marcos family, understands the estate's legal strategy and allows the human rights claimants wider scope for collecting on the damages. For all these reasons, we join the many who hail the ruling as both just and necessary.

On Oct. 24, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the 2011 decision of the Hawaii district court finding the estate of ferdinand Marcos in contempt, for failure to pay a fine imposed by the Hawaii court. The fine was determined as $100,000 per day, because the Marcos estate failed to pay the fine for 10 years, from 1995 to 2005, by the end of the 10-year period the total amount had reached $353,600,000.

A 3-person decision of the Ninth Circuit court held that "the $353,600,000 contempt judgment is properly enforceable" by the human rights claimants led by Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia.

The contempt judgment is separate from the original (and now two-decade-old) $2-billion award in damages, to the first consequence of the new ruling is that the Marcos estate finds itself obliged to pay the claimants a much higher sum. This is only right. The federal court upheld the district court's reasoning that "the $100,000 per day amount was 'necessary and appropriate' because Marcos's continuing-in-contempt conduct was causing direct harm to Hilao, including $95,000 per day from lost interests and additional losses due to Marcos's dilatory tactics."

Another consequence is the hanging of pitiful scorn on the Marcos estate's legal strategy. To dilatory tactics, and absurd grasping at straws. We are glad to read in the unpublished "Memorandum" issued by the federal court, for example, the following passage—the legal equivalent of a smack-down:

"Marcos contends that it 'obliquely' made this argument [that the Hawaii court's contempt judgment was unenforceable under federal law] in a December 2010 motion report statement. We agree that this reference was oblique; it was, in fact, a single sentence of a single paragraph of a five-page memorandum to the district court. Moreover, the paragraph lacked legal citation and began with 'For another way' suggesting that Marcos was simply restating the state law argument in different terms. Thus, Marcos did not raise this argument 'sufficiently for the trial court to rule on it.'"

A third consequence is eminently practical. "This new judgment is against heirs Marcos and not just [ferdinand Jr., as incumbent senator] personally, for their nationality," said lead counsel Robert Swift in a statement released under his name and that of co-counsel Rodrigo Domingo. "It broadens the possibilities for collection of money to the human rights victims. The victims can be assured . . . we will vigorously and aggressively seek to collect that sum."

The landmark court judgment gives the human rights claimants additional legal firepower in renewed efforts recovering Marcos assets outside the Philippines, primarily in the United States. In the Philippines, however, legislative obstacles continue to bar the way: the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law mandates that all amounts recovered from Marcos' hidden wealth must be redirected to agrarian reform, and a bill in Congress allowing the national government to award some P10 billion of the $540 million recovered from the Swiss government in 1990 remains pending. (This is a matter that should be investigated. Who is holding up the bill?)

Last year, thanks mainly to $10 million were finally distributed to the human rights claimants, to partial fulfillment of the 1992 judgment. But that amount is miniscule—only about half a percent of the $2 billion awarded in damages.

We hope the Ninth Circuit court's upholding of an additional $353.6 million in contempt fees will prod the Senate and the House of Representatives to do their part, and help the victims achieve justice. We share the regret expressed by some who say that all these judgments involve "only" money (and not prison terms and purported disqualification from office)—but considering the grisly materialistic character of the Marcos regime, these damages are no mere jest; they are also apt.

Let's have an 'Anti-Political Dynasty Movement'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE THIRD chief guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law"—1986 Constitution.

The Constitution is very clear. Only a little common sense is needed to understand it. The above provision is not self-executory. Like other others it has to be enforced through legislation to maintain democratic institutions. The reason is the framers added the phrase "as may be defined by law."

The constitutional provision needs an implementing law. The other trouble is, laws are written and passed by members of Congress many of whom are themselves members of political dynasties. Besides, they fear passage of the Constitution, are still leave no defining law banning political dynasties.

The Senate committee on electoral reforms, chaired by Sen. Ralio Pimentel, a member of the Pimentel political clan of Mindanao, is presently hearing around the definition of "political dynasty" even if the ordinary Filipino already knows what it is. Pimentel says too many politicians are finding loopholes in the definition to avoid disqualification. He is right. And this is a loud please that are multiplying rapidly in almost all provinces, cities and municipalities, as well as in the national arena, political dynasties are feeding family members in clandestine to avoid disqualification. It is as if the political families are in a hurry to put relatives in political positions before a new electoral campaign starts.

Even lesser and unsophisticated congressman Manny Pacquiao is already starting his own political dynasty. He is fielding his wife, Jinkee, in the 2013 elections to succeed him as congressman of Sarangani. Next year, he may have Manny Jr as nominee of a party-list group of indigenous cultural communities.

People thought that Pacquiao, not being a traditional politician, would bring reforms to the House of Representatives, or at least be different from most of the congressional women) there who think only of themselves. Alas, they were mistaken.

Pacquiao boasted very quickly all the bad habits of his peers. He is absent from Congress for long periods most of the time while running for his upcoming boxing bouts from which he earns millions of US dollars. He has continued to collect his salaries and allowances, including his pork barrel, although he is not working for them. Lastly, per eminent employment, who else a band to consult numerous, are subjected to the "no work, no pay" policy, but highly paid members of Congress like Pacquiao, although media millionaires, can be sure every Independence Day or sudden fiesta pay, collect their salaries and allowances although they are absent.

Pacquiao has not passed a single legislation, neither has he participated in congressional debates, but he already is building his own political dynasty. Almost whenever with "senate") probably thinks that, by virtue of being a multimillionaire, he has the right to start his own political dynasty although he has not yet proven that he knows the needs of good public servants.

With many members of Congress—both senators and congressmen/women)—belonging to political dynasties, it is not likely that Congress will pass an enabling law to the constitutional provision. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago—a lawyer, one of the few who don't belong to political dynasties—has filed measures dynasty bill to the Senate but, as stated earlier, the committee on electoral reforms is stepping on it. And even if such a bill manages to squeak through, most likely it would be severely hampered by amendments and become toothless and wind-blown.

So what do we, the citizens, the "bosses" of our public servants, do to give meaning to the Constitution and to free ourselves from the shackles of long-entrenched political families? The Commission on Elections is currently shirking its duty. It claims it cannot implement the constitutional provision because there is no enabling law.

We the Comelec, as argued by businessman Jun Bernaga in a petition filed before the Supreme Court, "is vested with implied powers to make a definition of political dynasties and the enforcement duty to prohibit them." I think Comelec Comelec can do the above, and let the politicians sue to the Supreme Court, and leave the latter to settle the issue.

Bernaga argued that political dynasties are prohibited by the Constitution and that they are inherently bad." Bernaga also asked the high tribunal to enforce the constitutional ban on political dynasties.

A more courageous Supreme Court can issue a writ of prohibition banning political dynasties and let the politicians argue against it. But, alas, we have a Supreme Court and a Comelec that would rather run away and cover their balls than perform their duties.

Now is left to an ordinary citizen to enforce our Constitution. After all, we are the "bosses," of all the high and mighty in government. We should not take for any member of political dynasties in our next year's polls and thereafter. Let's enlist the political dynasties we regard our will not to achieve that freedom from the clutches of politicians.

But if we do not do anything to save ourselves, the Philippines will drowned into the ocean like similar to the one that befell Medieval Europe when it was divided into fiefdoms ruled by feudal lords. Only, we are not in the Middle Ages anymore. We should not take it anymore. Enough is enough.

We already have the beginnings of it. Philippine provinces, cities and municipalities are now ruled by warlords and political dynasties and well-liked persons or if we do not do something about it.

Like the Anti-Epal Movement, groups should form an Anti-Political Dynasty Movement around the country to educate the voters and mobilize them to defeat candidates of political dynasties for the good of the nation.

Lessons

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE MOST obvious lesson to be experienced of preparedness.

Project Rush director, Alfredo Mahar Lagmay drives home the point. "I was in New York during Hurricane Irene' in August 2011," he tweeted. "It's impressive how the people there are ready, as are the city's preparing for a tsunami. There's an abundance of information. All the media in the different areas are providing advisories. Everyone's working together. Even the president was there to check on relief's happening."

Not a lot, despite their level of preparedness. "Frankenstorm Sandy" still damaged $75 billion in the United States as it ripped through its eastern seaboard. New York took the brunt of it, with 47 dead (10 in New York City alone), as it did the brunt of the devastation, its subways shutting down for the second time during its history and a great part of the city that never sleeps caught in the grip of a power outage.

I've read some statements in the social media and gotten all sorts of messages like that we are not to handle never used to things like this we get to cope with them. We never really these Asian's, one do, but all of them are of the options that are or nothing type, which basically says we are those things for breakfast, we've had worse, life has up to us. Some are perfectly sober, at random, which say that sometimes being used to pain and devastation has it uses. We do get 20 or so typhoons a year, some of them "freaking monsters" too, or "supertyphoons," or we call them, such as those that flattened Aklan some years ago, or are those that were in Catanduanes with the fierceness of a mythic dragon throughout.

But I don't know if that doesn't also reflect callousness toward life. There's nothing particularly lucky about having hundreds—Apocalypse Among Iran a disaster, or even thousands, as in the case of Cagayan de Oro after "Sendong," or Ormoc after a flash flood swept a village into the sea. And there's nothing particularly admirable about being able to move quickly on in the midst of calamity, relatives that threaten to starve or threaten. It doesn't always mean fortitude, it can also mean numbness. It doesn't always mean weakness, it can also mean resignation. It doesn't always mean a sense of optimism, it can also mean a lack of appreciation of life. The preservation of life, our people being so plentiful as country we don't greatly mind losing a few hundreds of them every time.

I don't know that being assembled and dusted and single next new home. I don't know that finding it the responsibility of the individual to do everything in your power to prevent it from happening again isn't more credible.

I don't know that anti-dotard's experience by preparedness.

The other, and far more important, lesson that the disaster teaches, if not the most popular, is to learn to this day is that there is one way we are country on this planet, however powerful, can possibly win. That is the war against Nature.

If "Sandy" has earned one thing home to America, something the world has already known for some time, it is that "the unprecedented is the new normal." "Our storms are getting stronger, the stronger storms are getting more frequent," al Gore said last week. Apparently, the author of "An Inconvenient Truth" is being heard by more and more Americans, aided by their increasingly inconvenient circumstances. Some storms are 40 Americans now believe in the science behind global warming. All it takes is for there to unveil a campaign, not unlike the one that ended the Vietnam War, and not unlike the one that ended the Iraq War, and not unlike the one that ended the South Sudan's.

Fortunately for us, some of their leaders at least have begun to believe, no small thanks to "Sandy." A thing Kenya will attribute to how we belong to pro-identical bands to cost the planet, or sending deliverance displaced to a concession. "There has been a series of extreme weather incidents," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "This is not a political statement—that is a factual statement. Anyone who says there's not a dramatic change in weather patterns, I think, is denying reality. There's no such thing as a 100-year flood. We have a 100-year flood every two years now."

A far more dramatic statement came from New York City's mayor, Michael Bloomberg, who endorsed President Obama's re-election. "Our climate is changing. And while the increase in extreme weather we have experienced in New York City and around the world may or may not be the result of it, the risk that it might be . . . going this week's devastation—should compel all elected leaders to take immediate action. I want our president to place scientific evidence and risk management above tired politics."

Oliver Stone sounded almost biblical when he spoke of how the Pentagon was elected the face of the election as finally as it altered the face of the American even "Sandy is kind of a moral statement coming right after the debates. That is a punishment—Mother Nature cannot be ignored."

Nothing like a devastation to cut down hubris. Elizabeth Bellers put the Mayan death challenge that Juan Antonio—and the rest of the human race—to shame. "It is, at this point, impossible to say what it will take for American politics to catch up to the reality of North American climate change. How super-storms, once best worse, were established-dollar families refused low rents? The one thing that can be said is that, whether or not our elected officials choose to acknowledge the obvious, we can expect, 'with a high degree of confidence,' that all of these are coming."

One thing we can expect too will be a high degree of recklessness, or denial. American politics doesn't catch up to the reality of global climate change, because today shows. Heaven help us. An impending storm over our prospects for.

An impending apocalypse you cannot.

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The long weekend

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ORE. Of the distinctions I had during the long weekend was trying to find out the etymology of the word "undas." I thought it might be to old Tagalog word, but my Tagalog colleagues could not tell me its origin. Another said the root was Visayan. The dictionaries themselves simply say "All Saints Day" or "Todos los Santos." I guess I will have to wait for someone who gives me the definitive answer before new "undas."

Another I learned in my quest was during the time of the year is about the origin of Halloween. I guess the explanation given by our Social Services might be as good as any. He says: "The end conditions of All Hallows' Eve is that before the day of All Saints, there is a crack in the fabric of the cosmos, which allows evil spirits from the underworld to come out. At that point in time, we are vulnerable, as troublesome we are vulnerable life at the moment of death and need the name of Jesus to be spoken so as loudly because hearing it the last thing to go and the devil wants to take us with him to hell. Therefore, to protect ourselves from the tricks of the devil and his minions, on All Hallow's Eve, people are invited to go out into the streets in scary costumes and make loud noises to frighten the devils away and in turn remind the victory of holiness over evil. It is a mythological extension of the Christian faith. Do you believe in this kind of stuff now? So-so. We go to mention of the devils and our them back down to their captivity in hell, and that's what All Hallows' Eve is about. It is both Christian and mythological, and I trust you at this point to see that there is a rich relating in Christian mythological thinking which is significant for our lives today."

The mythological thinking has in underpinning from the Council of Trent that "there is a purgatory, and that the souls therein are helped by the suffrages of the faithful, but principally by the acceptable Sacrifice of the Altar."

From the Ancient writer again: "But the understanding of this religious vision has gone now. Now Halloween is now celebrated comes from how Hollywood imagines the forces of evil, and the young people on the streets and in the clubs imitate the images from horror films they have seen. They revoke demonic possession that no one takes seriously in any theological sense, but have an imaginative power that does not from the world of digital reality, and in popular conjunction, death-defying demons, robotic killing machines and malevolent vampires have taken the place of metaphysical evil. In The Church is a new metaphysical evil to only when comes from the twisting of human and angelic freedoms. Christians go wrong through the misuse of their freedom, evil is a twisting of the will, a by-product of freedom, not a feature within the natural order. This is why one can see in all seriousness that death is the result of human sin, and that the world's order that expresses the divine nature."

From my window in the Social Residence at the Ateneo, I have a panoramic view of Loyola Memorial Park. On All Saints eve it is all lit up and one can see cars and people moving around. I don't believe that the preoccupation of the living dead with their graves is anything to do with evil and Halloween images. They are there simply to be one to their loved ones and to pray for them to be sustained in their final destination because they believe in what the Council of Trent teaches about Purgatory.

What can be said of Purgatory? (1) I may agree with the quote is found: "The first thing that the cosmic novel realize in us is the troubling image of a 'god' who makes us pay right down to the last penny, or at best the image makes us think of a 'waiting room' through which most mortals will have to pass in order to be able to reach celestial beatitude. If we add to these images certain liturgical practices of individual penitence, we have more than enough reasons to ignore the topic.

"Nevertheless, we cannot deny a certain plausibility to purgatory, first because our access to celestial beatitude will always be a creaturely access. Heaven does not mean that we lose ourselves and disappear into him, but rather that we become ourselves fully, in the sense of finding our true identity, or identity which, to its fullness in God's, becomes supremely entertained.

"We know, of course, from experience that making our very own the love God gives us inevitably presupposes a process, or better: a way. Every form of movement on the way to a source of joy, but progress on the journey can also be very painful at times. John of the Cross points out quite correctly that the real misery of the human condition consists in this: what is most helpful and beneficial for us becomes harsh and difficult to absorb."

All are scheduled by the canons of light. Possibly this is what purgatory is all about: knowing that we are utterly cured and nevertheless still on the way to taking full possession of that salvation. In other words: purgatory is heaven, but seen from the opposite shore."

Did I really understand all this? I am not sure I do. But I do not believe in fairy tales or God is God of love. And that is the reason why millions of people flock every year to memorial parks and churches to pray for their departed loved ones, even if they do not have exactly how their prayers can hasten their loved ones up the upward slope.

Magic number is 270

UNDERSTAND that Tuesday on the United States America can well troop to the polls to elect a president and vice president who will reach them to the next four years. The tie number President Barack Obama is in a tight race against a strong challenger, Mitt Romney, the Republican standard-bearer. All national poll figures indicating leads for either Obama or Romney are within a margin of error. This means that the race may well be decided not on the results of the nationwide popular vote, but on how a uniquely American institution known as the Electoral College will decide the contest.

REVEILLE

Manuel J. Lavadia

In 2000, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican candidate, defeated Vice President Al Gore in one of the closest elections in US history. Gore received more of the nationwide popular votes, but Bush lost the Electoral College count when Bush narrowly defeated him in Florida. Nearly 5 million voted for Al Gore in the Sunshine State. Gore got Bush beat him by a mere 537 votes. By dint of this narrow lose victory, Florida's 27 electoral votes went to Bush. The votes he Gore had set impact on the national election.

What is the Electoral College?

According to Wikipedia, the Electoral College is the organization that officially elects the president and vice president of the United States every four years. Most Filipinos think that the US elections are decided by the popular vote. The electors are chosen by each of the 50 states of the Union and the District of Columbia, but not by only as mentioned constitution such as Guam and Puerto Rico. The number of electors is 538, based on the total voting membership of the United States Congress (435 representatives and 100 senators), and three electors from the District of Columbia.

Voters in each state and the District of Columbia cast ballots to select electors pledged to presidential and vice presidential candidates. In nearly all states, electors are awarded on a winner-take-all basis to the candidate who wins the most votes in that state, although no elector is required by federal law to honor a pledge in the overwhelming majority of cases each elector votes as pledged. The winning number is 270 electoral votes, which is one half plus one of the total 538 votes.

Critics of the system argue that the Electoral College is undemocratic and gives "swing" states voters that more from one party to another disproportionate influence in the election. Thus the critics insist, proponents say that the Electoral College is an important keeper of federalism in the United States and that it protects the rights of smaller states.

With the current race so close, the question has been asked: What happens if Obama and Romney are tied in the Electoral College with 269 votes each?

The latest issue of Time magazine carries an article by Haroon Children on what the Constitution provides in case of a tie vote.

Briefly, on Dec. 6, the country votes for the members of the Electoral College. The elected members then gather on Dec. 17 to select the president and vice president. On Jan. 6, the US Congress meets to count the votes of the college. If no one gets 270 votes, the newly elected House of Representatives chooses the president while the Senate chooses the vice president. With the Republicans in control of the House, it is possible that Romney would be chosen president while Democrat-controlled Senate could vote for Joe Biden.

How in such a delicate situation, anything can happen. Election initially pledged to certain candidates may change their minds once rule (it states have been requiring their electors to vote for the person they were chosen to support).

The chances of this kind of scenario taking place are remote. But with the race so close, veterans of the Bush-Gore fight in Florida in 2000 are preparing for legal battles that may crop up. There have been numerous constitutional amendments that have been introduced in Congress seeking to abet the Electoral College or replace it altogether with a direct popular vote. But these moves have not prospered, have been able to get the approval of Congress.

Incidentally in 2008, Sen. Barack Obama captured 365 electoral votes to Sen. John McCain's 173.

* * *

The other election

Aside from other the US elections, the world's second largest economy will witness a once-in-a-decade leadership change. President and Communist Party Secretary General Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao will step down from power, giving way to a new generation led by Vice Premier Xi Jinping and First Vice Premier Li Keqiang. For the Philippines, perhaps even more significant than the new US presidential election is the transfer of power that will take place in China.

More important than the presidency is the position of chairman of the Central Military Commission that Xi will eventually assume. In this respect, Xi handily beats the Fed Chief (by name) of the present crop of generals in the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Whether new generation Chinese leaders will lean as confident of today as overbearing is to himself several as secretary to become Defense Minister Gong Biao.

Under Hu Jintao, China's economic grew from seventh largest in the world to the second-largest, second only to the United States, per capita income has nearly tripled and hundreds of millions of people have been brought out of poverty. However, there has been little change in its political system. It remains the "biggest security risks in the world," with a population of some 1.3 billion under the tight control of autocrats.

Even interesting to see the new leader Xi Jinping. He is the son of a Communist Party elder closely identified with Mao Zedong. He studied chemical engineering in Beijing's Tsinghua University and his current wife is a popular folk singer with the People's Liberation Army. His only child, a daughter, studies at Harvard University under an assumed name presumably to conceal her identity.

* * *

Another election.

On Dec. 30, our National Sports Associations (NSAs) will be holding elections for the post of Philippine Olympic Committee president. Current head Peping Cojuangco is running for a fifth term. Judging by the articles I have come across on this subject, Cojuangco appears to be a shoein for re-election. But just how to ask yourself these questions: In terms of sport development, is the country better prepared today for future international competitions than it was in the past? Is an Olympic gold for the Philippines in sight in the 2016 Rio Summer Games?

Asem: strong partnership for peace and prosperity

THE 9TH summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem), which opens today in Vientiane, Laos, brings together 21 leaders from Europe and Asia. Thirteen years after the launch in 1996 of this process, the landscape of Europe and especially Europe, Asia and the world have changed significantly. Asian nations have become strong economic players, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and gaining self-confidence on the world stage. In Europe, countries across the East and West have joined forces in an enlarged European Union, turning it into the most ambitious and developed political experiment of our continent in its history. Globalization, interdependence, redistribution of power, pressure over natural resources are among the key challenges we face together.

Against the scenario, European-Asian relations are therefore more relevant today than ever. It is not surprising that five of the European Union's strategic partners are Asian participants, with which we meet regularly and at the highest levels, and that in the second year of the Obama Summit we will be hosting Cambodia, Indonesia, Burma/Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and will have numerous bilateral meetings with our fellow Asian leaders.

Building on these dense relations, our discussion in Vientiane is clear and I'm sure they will contribute to strengthen key objectives.

Firstly, we need strong, sustainable and inclusive growth. The world economy has undergone to more testing time since the 1930s, following the outbreak of the financial crisis in 2007. The economic and financial processes in Europe are not only a matter of concern for the rest of the world. The European Union is taking steps needed to reduce public debt, ensure a healthy banking system, laid by the foundations for sustained growth and a stable common currency. But, risks also need to do their part. In particular we look to Asian countries to contribute to this effort, because, to rebalance their growth model to support global recovery.

Secondly, to foster growth we need to support world trade. This involves not only fighting domestic demand, but also avoiding protectionism. Asia's trade with the European Union has held up well in the difficult years since 2007: a tribute to the openness of the EU market and our schemes of tariff preferences for developing countries, unilateral System of Preferences and, "Everything but arms," as well as our efforts to remove non-tariff obstructions. However, there is still a huge potential to tap in the bilateral trade between the European Union and Asia. The free trade agreements concluded with the Republic of Korea and being negotiated with Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and India, and in the future Japan, should help unlock that potential, and we may explore free trade agreements with other countries. But, the need to support world trade can also be seen in the commitment against protectionism and welcomed Asian countries' decision to join the WTO. We remain committed to open economies and to the consistently agreed multilateral trade rules.

Thirdly, we need stability and security, and the best way to achieve these is through negotiated solutions and common institutions. Asia will host in the coming months two important regional fora and to tackle international security threats effectively at regional and global level. We commend Asean for assessing the development of under cooperation initiatives in East Asia in Beacon said in the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), and the first has been hosting a consultation mechanism; the European Union has just acceded the first year to the Asean Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and is already an active member of the ARF. We look forward to make a positive contribution to the regional debates, and we intend to work to their role as a platform for crisis management, conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy.

The European Union brings to Asian partners its world's largest internal market by value, its political weight as first trading and investing partner and biggest aid donors as well as its scientific and technical strengths. As recognized by the recently awarded Nobel Peace Prize, the European Union also brings an experience in regional integration and a foreign and security policy aimed at promoting prosperity, peace and stability, together with a network of partnerships around the globe and in respect of the rule of law and human rights.

While the economic aspects of our common have been dominant in the past, the political and security dimension has steadily grown in importance. The European Union is developing broad security dialogues with many Asian countries including with those like combating piracy, terrorism and cybercrime. It also assists in the consolidation of democracy, like, for example, cooperating with Asean to ensure free and credible elections in Burma/Myanmar.

Against this background the Phnom Penh Asem Summit will offer an opportunity to address a wide range of issues of mutual interest, to strengthen our cooperation and to launch further joint initiatives. It will be also the occasion to welcome new colleagues from Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland—another sign of the continued attractiveness of Asem and of strong and close EU-Asia relations.

The European Union will look forward to host the next Asem summit in Brussels in 2014.

Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso are the presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission, respectively.

Why I shall spoil my ballot

THIS, I am still an American citizen, running three more years for permanent-resident status as a permanent Philippine citizen, I follow Asian-wide political developments, although not as closely as those of my adopted country.

Yes, I have a ballot for the upcoming US presidential election, and I shall send it. However, it will not be counted, as I shall deliberately spoil it.

Why?

First, there is no one way in which I could vote for the Republican Party of today. Its lack of concern for the poor (its society in which income differentials have become obscene fazes me off completely), its dare-the-communist opposition and obstructionism of the last four years, and its racist attacks throughout the Obama administration. If my twin sons, Ken Aston, were to dissent of giving them to elected votes to the Republicans, I would find it unfortunate to vote for the Democrats. However, the two seems only in the Democratic camp, and so I have genuine freedom.

I am not happy with the Democratic Party either, I object enough to its support for "abortion rights." As Abraham Lincoln said of slavery, "If abortion is not wrong, then nothing is wrong." However, for human lives to be effectively saved, we need to do more than just say that we are "pro-life" and "pro-family." Abortion is not by any means the only one in which—often by court or administrative body decision—governmental government functioning, and even public space more not touch religion "even with a 10-foot pole," and religion a cordoned back into the society and the privacy of the home and the individual conscience. Let me illustrate.

It is pretty well established case that Christmas trees or Menorah scenes must not be set up on public property. The same goes for the Ten Commandments, which cannot be displayed in public schools. Prayers in public schools and even their public address systems at many football games are out, and issues have been raised about opening prayers at city council meetings. The latest "tempest in a teapot" comes on a small town in Texas where a school board ruling forbade football cheerleaders to display crosses from the bleachers as they held—a prohibition supported additionally by the prestigious New York Times. Will Americans reach the point at which Mother Theresa's is forbidden to make the sign of the cross as he receives the ring in Los Vegas, or to note the French is prohibiting Muslim girls from wearing head veils in school? Is the same of the Christian crucifix?

More significant are the growing demands that religious institutions, especially those which receive government funding, conform to the ethical standards of the wider society. The Catholic Bishops in the state of Illinois have closed down the child adoption agencies rather than give same-sex couples the right to adopt children. Catholic hospitals are legally required, under Obama-care rule, to the state's demand that they consider same-sex couples for family procedures on the same basis as other couples...even though they were willing to refer such couples to other agencies.

Similarly, the HI Department of Health and Human Services concluded a contract with Catholic Relief Services for what was recognized as a superior program for trafficked women because CRS refused to provide abortion services for the victims.

Awareness of this tendency seems to have moved Pope Benedict XVI, who had previously expressed appreciation for the American system of government, to emphasize the need for "the voice of committed believers in determining the ethical values which will be the basis of the life of society as well as its political system."

He went on to warn American bishops of "the grave threats to the Church's public moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres," which would oblige Catholic politicians and individuals to compromise on practices which they regard as immoral.

Considerations such as these probably lay behind the decision of the American bishops to "draw a line in the sand" with regard to the provision of the "Obamacare" health program obliging employers to provide for contraception free of charge—inasmuch as it attacks only the cost of contraception, sterilization, and pills that induce abortion. In reality, I would believe that the "incarceration in evil" involved here is either remote and in itself could be allowed, but I can also see how it is wrong for health drugs to be free, And I shall back them up, at least to the extent of spending my ballot.

But we faced by the same problem in the Philippines? Perhaps not yet, but the responsibilities in the Reproductive Health bill—since passed—obliging private schools to follow Department of Education standards on sex education could well be coming in the wind.

* * *

Comments welcome at jcbernas@ateneo.edu

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Two versions of JPE

LETTERS

JEAN FORCE Enrile's counsel managed to rub mental law veterans of something they have been long fighting for—justice. Those who attended the bizarre tests of mental fortitude were more upbeat as Enrile's deliberate missteps accomplished our nation's history in a TV special.

Both Enrile's memoirs and the ABS-CBN documentary took great efforts to paint the man in a more glorious light. The two things so carefully chosen like his stunning himself from the Senate presidency which he himself helped to establish. He used to cast himself as a victim and, later, a messiah. He denied having been one of the architects of martial law and, like Ponnie Pilato, released his hands by washing all accountability for all the crimes the Marcos regime committed. Instead of admitting responsibility, he passed the buck to Marcos. After all, why should Enrile share the blame with the dictator of Presidente Marcos himself?

However, to assign to one person all the blame for such a tragedy would be to oversimplify history and reduce politics to the will of a single agent. History just does not work that way; politics, too. One man cannot by himself shackle, torture and plunder an entire nation. Marcos could not have made it to the top if not for the Americans' bonds, armed and undefeated. He would not have been able to supplement all his machinations if not for allies like Gen. Fabian Ver and, on the local, Juan Ponce Enrile.

Another problem with Enrile's attempt to "tell-all" for image and libel his contemporaries is that those he blames as principals for the crimes, in which he was only an accessory, are all dead. For example, he took a swing at Marcos. We said even Nancy Aquino-as he attempted to have himself exonerated. All these could not possibly rise from their graves to defend themselves against his accusations or refute his denials. Such is the privilege of longevity as he declared as well: the men's to tell the long, and having no one there to refute it.

Thankfully, there are still those who have enough knowledge, memory and courage left to remember, and tell what they remember. The people who know about Enrile's true role have not taken his imaginative storytelling sitting down. They are taking the question of whether he truly believes what he is saying, or he knows that he is passing off his words for fact.

There remains that dim hope for 1986 People Power revolt as false, a true flat-lie himself who confessed that his ambush in 1972 was staged to serve as a basis for the declaration of martial law. In other words, he admitted that it was fake, and that he knew it was fake, and that he played along with that charade.

Curiously, the ABS-CBN documentary omitted his supposed ambush and his admission of its fakery despite the 30-year or, in still other, a shock where 20 years after his confession. He executed and maintained that the ambush was not staged. People were left wondering which version to believe. Enrile 1986 or Enrile 2012?

—EDWARD FERDANDEZ DAVID,
Kalaw ang Tawid

BOR observing due process in case of dismissed dean

THIS REFERS to the column of Prof. Solita Monsod, titled "A matter of justice and common sense" (Inquirer, 10/27/12).

Monsod claimed in her column that the dismissed supervised dean to the Office of the Secretary of the UP Board of Regents (BOR) on Dec. 4, 2012, inquiring about the status of the case of UP Cebu Dean Lucian Ardi who appealed his dismissal from UP. She then claimed that she never received a reply from the BOR, and averred her dismissal in the dailies, which she says is a "denial of justice" to Ardi. She also accused the BOR members, of arrogance "in so long from Ardi's running in the mind" and disrespectful of Ardi as a "commissioned of the charges, and denying only to do what is necessary to prepare UP Cebu to evolve into a research campus."

Being the secretary of the BOR, let me state the following:

1. The board can neither withdrawal, which was addressed to the dean and members of the BOR, are received by the Office of the Secretary of the University (OSU) on Dec. 4, 2012.

2. The BOR secretary was not provided a copy of the letter.

3. Copies of the letter were personally delivered by the messengers of the OSU and received by the BOR members between Oct. 4 and 9, 2012.

4. The appeal of Dean Ardi on his dismissal from service is a disputing with the BOR; thus, the merits of the case cannot be discussed in public or elsewhere. Comments on Monsod's claim that the BOR has kept Ardi "in limbo" is the remark," the BOR has acted with care by ensuring that due process is observed, and by carefully studying and deliberating on the merits of the case which involves not only the dean but also her family, friends and Mr. Ardi's friends.

5. In cases as the BOR has decided to defer case with finding the BOR secretary will forward the legal order of UP Cebu through the Office of the UP President for implementation. (UP Cebu is currently under the Office of the UP President.)

I hope this letter clarifies the issues raised by Monsod.

—LILIAN V. DE LA FUENTE,
secretary of the UP board of regents

More Sports on A29 to A32

Late SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa Jr.
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dilleo

San Mig outclasses listless Ginebra five

By Mburoy B. Castillo

BEFORE the season's biggest crowd, San Mig Coffee (now Barangay Ginebra San Miguel) is shook, 78-56, last night to what was supposed to be the Bustling B-side to a rare triplebiceader.

The Hitters rebounded from a pathetic start and held the Gin Kings to just eight points in the first quarter to post leads of as many as 22 points before succumbing to their third straight win and a share of second place in the PBA Philippine Cup.

An 18-minute hit free nights in a total fourth-quarter stretch as the Hitters broke the game wide open and prompted many of the close to 20,000 Smart Araneta Coliseum fans to leave for home or other stats.

San Mig won its previous two games despite not being in its best form, but its 18th win in seven outings was so clinical that Gilas/Ginebra forward Mike de la Bellacasa, looking on in the same class as the Hitters.

"We played a great defensive game tonight and there were times that Ginebra shot themselves in the foot with unforced turnovers," said Mig's Tim Cone said later. "That happens in the midst of a downtime when you lose your poise."

This loss, too, was not just "worse" for the Kings, who took a fifth straight defeat (both on the slim, flesh 2-9 end) are good for an eighth place tie with idle Air 21.

Dwayne Bamford with 10 points and was named Best Player of the Game even as Jamie Yap, Steve Ryan Simmons and Elmer Pingon all finished with twin digits.

Ginebra came into the game with three veterans on the injured list, and the Kings also lost Dylan Ababou early to a suspected ACL injury.

The Kings actually started safely on 6-3 lead, but the Best quarter ended with Ginebra trailing, 8-17, after going scoreless for most of the last six minutes of the quarter.

Ginebra's Jeffrey Cariaso led the Kings with 16 points, all scored in the final three periods.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL (78)—Enriquez III—Enriquez 12, Yap 11, Simon 12, Pingon 11, Dela Cruz 7, Barroca 7, Bamford 10, Ilaban 2, Villanueva 2, Ayaay 2, Tubid 0, Ilaban 0, Ilaban 0, Ilaban

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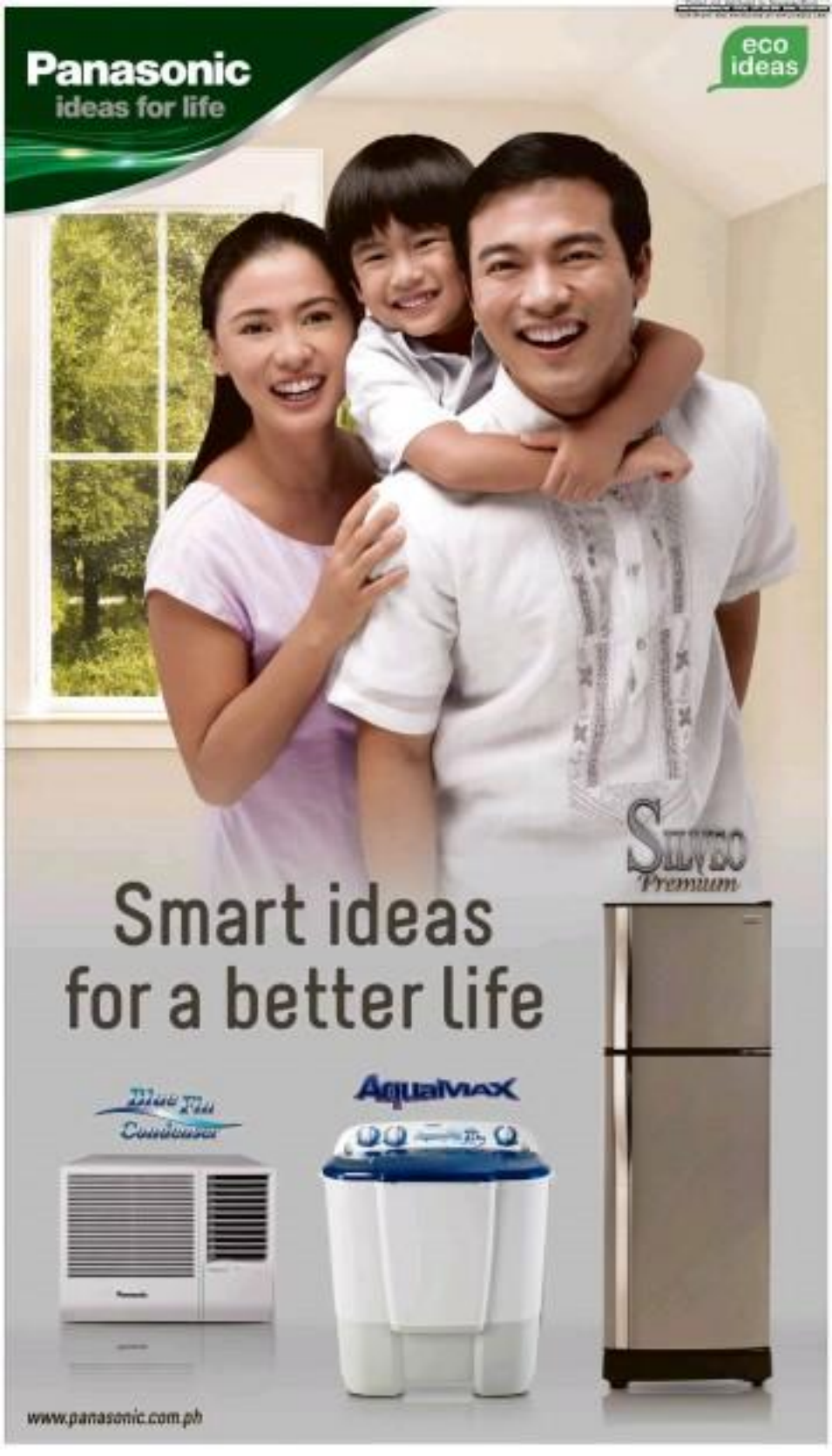

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

ABOUT 7 percent of poor unemployed Filipinos are residing in data from the National Capital Region in 2009, according to data from the National Statistical Coordination Board. In the same period, approximately 4 out of 10 poor unemployed are in Luzon.
EDLAG Bendijo, Inquirer Research

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CCTV a must for QC shops

'No camera, no business permit' policy starts in Jan, says mayor

By Jeannette I. Andrade

"BIG BROTHER" is fast becoming a part of Filipino life.

In an anticrime initiative, the Quezon City government will strictly implement the "No CCTV, no business permit" policy starting January next year, City Hall said on Tuesday.

Mayor Herbert Bautista said he had instructed the Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) to send out reminders starting this month to business owners on the need to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems in their establishments before applying for or renewing their permits.

CCTV / A4

CATCH-ALL A CCTV footage posted on YouTube caught a thief taking a customer's bag in a Pasig City restaurant.

Speeding taxi driver yields 'shabu' in Pasay

POLICE on Saturday stopped a speeding taxi and arrested the driver over his driving like "mad man" that he may be high on illegal drugs.

Supt. Romnick Dela Jaffeen in charge of the Pasay police said the driver, Ronnie De Jr., a resident of Dagat Dagatan in Caloocan City, was in jail facing drug charges.

Police said Aliga was driving a taxi (TXI-1) along Taft Avenue corner Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay City around 4 p.m. on Saturday when he was flagged down by a traffic enforcer.

Dela said the driver had a small plastic sachet containing methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu."

Dela said the shabu had a street value of P5,000.

Aliga is detained at the Pasay City Police Station lockup facility while facing charges for violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Murder on a tugboat: 'Sige, patayin mo ako!'

A DOST engineer was hacked to death by his quartermaster on a tugboat Saturday night at Manila Harbour Centre in Tondo, Manila.

An eyewitness said the attacker, 40-year-old Jobbie Silvangan, threw the machete weapon into the water and jumped off the vessel to escape after killing his supervisor, chief boat engineer Bienvenido Bilkisan, 44.

Silvangan was later apprehended by a security officer at the port and was returned over to the police.

Before the assault, the two men were heard having a heated argument onboard the tugboat Hiyoko which was then on its way to Manila Harbour Centre, according to the boat captain Elmer Sarcedas.

"I heard Bio shouting 'Putang-ina mo, sige patayin mo ako' (Son of a bitch, kill me)," Sarcedas said in his statement to the police.

Sarcedas said he then saw Silvangan striking the victim with a hole screwdriver. The suspect then turned to Sarcedas and seized his cell phone and hand-held radio to prevent him from reporting the incident to authorities, the witness said.

Silvangan then ordered the boat captain to dock the tugboat at Manila Harbour Centre, tossed the blood-stained hacksaw into the water and jumped off the vessel.

Alerted by the commotion, Inspmaster Torres, an officer of Coastline Integrated Services Corp. where men were guarding barges at the area, and other Silvangan and caught up with suspect, who was later turned over to the Manila Police District station in Baluk, Tondo. Marvin Brizuela

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CA affirms arrest order vs cops who shot girl, pa

By Christine D. Avendaño

THE COURT of Appeals (CA) has upheld the arrest order it issued in June against eight policemen involved in the fatal shooting of a man and his daughter in Pandacaqui City in December 2008.

In a nine-page decision, the court's 8th Division dismissed the petitions of the policemen that sought to quash their arrest warrants.

On June 15, the appellate court ordered these arrests after it overturned the ruling of a Pandacaqui Regional Trial Court judge who junked the multiple murder charges against the officers, supposedly for lack of probable cause.

The eight policemen were charged over the deaths of Alfredo De Vera, 53, a migrant worker who was then on vacation, and his 7-year-old daughter Lia Alana. The two victims were shot dead inside their home Crossroad on the night of Dec. 5, 2008, in circumstances that Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja) Executive Director Nilo Divina described as "highly questionable."

The policemen lived in the same barangay as the victims.

Initially, the police claimed that the victims were killed in a shootout with suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang, whom the officers were pursuing that night.

Fourteen other persons, including eight robbery suspects and a policeman, also died in the gunfight.

In a ruling penned by Associate Justice Noel Tijam, the appellate court justified its issuance of the arrest order which was signed by the division clerk of court, saying this can be done based on Rule 36 of the 2009 Internal Rules of the Court of Appeals (IRCA).

"Where the issuance of a warrant of arrest has been authorized by the Division, the same shall be signed by the Division Clerk of Court," the court said. It added that under the provisions of the Rules of Court, Presiding Justice of the court is also authorized to issue "ancillary writs or processes, whether or not in aid of its appellate jurisdiction."

The court also said the petitioners were wrong in questioning the Division Clerk of Court's concurring their signing of the arrest order, saying the had their authority under the IRCA.

CCTV a must for QC shops

From page A12

"Business establishments will benefit from using CCTVs especially in the prevention and resolution of crimes," the mayor said.

In a statement, Bautista said establishments operating within the city are required to have CCTVs, particularly pawnshops, gasoline stations, banks, malls, supermarkets and schools.

He said that starting next year, business owners can only secure permits from the BPLO if they already have security cameras installed in their establishments.

The mayor also announced the planned installation of a CCTV system next year at City Hall itself. This is apart from the procurement of P100 million worth of security cameras to be installed on major and secondary streets in the city's 142 barangays, he said.

The cost of installing a CCTV system ranges from P15,000 to as much as P50,000, depending on the coverage of the surveillance area. The price of the system also depends on the resolution of the security camera and other settings.

Last month, Philippine National Police chief Director General Nicanor Bartolome said he would propose that business establishments be required to install CCTVs in the next meeting of the National Peace and Order Council.

Bartolome then said: "Me is just a small investment on the part of business operators that will eventually translate to higher returns as losses due to crime are diminished."

In Congress, Sen. Manuel Lapid has filed a bill requiring commercial establishments with work areas measuring at least 50 square meters to install and maintain CCTVs to strengthen crime-

Gina Lopez injured in bike accident

LOPEZ

ABS-CBN Foundation managing director and environmental advocate Gina Lopez was injured in a bicycle accident in a park in Quezon City on Saturday, police said.

Supt. Virgilio Febrea of Quezon City Police District's Batasan station said Lopez was passing through the Tuason II area of La Mesa Ecopark on her mountain bike when she lost control and fell off the bike around 5 p.m.

Febrea did not give details about Lopez's injuries but said members of the park's emergency medical service team attended to her before bringing her to Far Eastern University Hospital.

The attending physician, Dr. Andrea Superioso, later declared Lopez to be in "a stable condition," the officer said in a report.

Reached on the phone on Sunday, Febrea said Lopez told him she was already "okay" when they spoke Saturday night but that she had asked to be transferred to St. Luke's Medical Center for further medical tests.

In a text message, ABS-CBN public relations director Irene Zared Chow said Lopez was scheduled to be discharged from the hospital on Sunday.

Bernice Bravo-ell

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E-tagging scheme for PUVs launched this week–MMDA

By Mike Cabuyao

THE ELECTRONIC tagging scheme designed to weed out "colorum" or unlicensed public utility vehicles (PUVs) is finally hitting the road this week, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said on Sunday.

MMDA chair Francis Tolentino said the agency, together with various transport groups, will launch the much delayed e-tagging project in a ceremony on Nov. 8. "It's ready to roll," he said on the MMDA's weekly radio program.

Proposed in 2010, the e-tagging project would require the installation of radio frequency identification devices (RFIDs) particularly on buses to help authorities intercept colorum vehicles or operators throughout the metropolis or those that are operating outside their designated routes.

Groups representing bus and jeepney operators had pushed for the e-tagging scheme as an alternative to merely painting markings on top of the vehicles, which was earlier considered by the MMDA to maintain coherent units.

Mia Silvestre, head of the MMDA's organized bus route program, said the agency will soon issue guidelines for the scheme's implementation.

She reminded, however, that it may take at least two months to install RFIDs on all the buses covered by the project. Around 3,700 buses operate daily on Edsa alone.

Silvestre also noted that the MMDA has yet to acquire RFID reading devices for its traffic personnel.

The first 8 months "will signal that e-tagging is now in the works," she said, adding that the ceremony will unveil the first two official buses and two jeepneys sporting RFIDs.

Silvestre said the scheme will kick off this week even without the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issuing a memorandum circular on the project.

The scheduled launch would come four months after MMDA and LTFRB officials signed a memorandum agreeing to cooperate in its implementation. A technical working group from the MMDA and the Department of Science and Technology had also evaluated bids on five e-tagging gadgets.

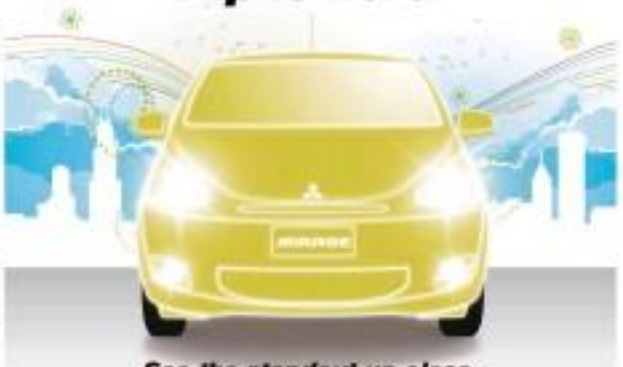
Last month, the party-list group Bantay Transport Coalition (1-Bata) criticized the delay in the implementation of the e-tagging project considering that the cost of PUVs will be shouldered by the bus and jeepney operators.

On Sunday, 1Bata lead convener Vigor Mendoza welcomed Tolentino's announcement regarding the launch. "Once this is already in place, the number of (legitimate) drivers will increase by P200 per day. From enough, we also get to reduce the number of colorum vehicles congesting the roads," he said.

According to Mendoza, installing an e-tag per vehicle would cost between P400 and P1,000.

He said 1Bata would use its People Development Assistance Fund to purchase an initial batch of RFID readers for MMDA traffic aides. These scanning devices can either be handheld or fixed on roadside posts, he said.

Hip is here.



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Fun run for Navotas scholars

[illegible] he said have his while helping poor but deserving students in Navotas City.

The Navotas City government is holding a fun run dubbed "Takbo na! Aral Pa!" in Motor ng Bayan on Nov. 18 to add funds to the city's scholarship program for underprivileged students.

Aside from the annual budget for the said program, the fund-raising activity aims to accommodate more scholars and ensure that the brightest and disadvantaged but deserving children in the city attain their dreams of a quality education," Mayor John Rey Tiangco said in a statement.

Tiangco recalled that last year's fun run raised around P1 million for the program, which the city government used for the benefit of hundreds of high school and college students.

He said parts of the fund will also support a number of projects linking professionals to [illegible] Navotas.

The fun run will start at 6 a.m. at the C4 bridge in Navotas City. Registration for North Participants may join the 3K and 10k categories. Bikers and skaters to are also expected to join the activity.

Interested residents and donors may register at the office of the Navotas Anti-Drug Abuse Council in City Hall.

Anthony C. Medenilla

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozco

CHINA'S Vice President Xi Jinping attends a meeting at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, in photo taken on August 29.

Tied to the military, emerging leader could shift China's path

BEIJING—On one of his many visits abroad in recent years, Xi Jinping, the presumptive new leader of China, met in 2009 with local Chinese residents in Mexico City, where in a relaxed atmosphere he indirectly criticized the United States.

"There are a few foreigners, with full bellies, who have nothing better to do than sit in a point fingers at our country," Xi said, according to a tape broadcast on Hong Kong television. "Chairman does not export revolution, hunger, poverty nor does China cause you any headaches. Just what else do you want?"

Xi, who is set to be elevated to the top post of the Chinese Communist Party at the 19th Party Congress scheduled to begin here on Thursday—only two days after the US election—will take the helm at a more confident China than the US has ever known. He will be assuming supreme power in China at a time when relations between the two countries are adrift, mired by suspicions over a clash of interests in Asia and by frequent insults on China in the US presidential campaign.

In the last four months, China has forged an aggressive, reassertive posture in Asia that puts to the test the US-imposed decadelong tenure, analysts and diplomats say, pushing against US allies, particularly Japan, for what China considers its territorial boundaries. The use of coercive economic power, Xi, 59, knows he draws ties to China's burgeoning military than the outgoing leader, Hu Jintao, had when he took office. As Xi won through the ranks of the Communist Party, he made the most of possible posts in the People's Liberation Army (PLA), despite the military being himself with the inner workings of the armed forces.

Even if Xi does not immediately become head of the crucial Central Military Commission as well as party leader, he will almost certainly do so within two years, giving him at least eight years as the direct overseer of the military.

This combination of political power as head of the Communist Party and good relations with a more robust military could make Xi a formidable leader for the foreseeable future, analysts and diplomats in China and the US say.

"The basic question is whether Xi will suspend the drift in the US-China relationship and take some corrective steps to put it on a smoother path, more feeling—or will he put it on a different, more confrontational track?" said Christopher R. Hughes, senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, and until recently a China analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency.

The answer appears to lie somewhere in between.

In a speech in Washington in February, Xi said that China and the US should begin a "new type of relationship between major countries in the 21st century."

Xi offered little specificity beyond respect for each side's "core interests and major concerns," "increased mutual understanding and strategic trust" and "enhancing cooperation and coordination in international affairs."

But essentially, said Jin Canrong, a professor at the School of International Studies at Renmin University in Beijing, Xi was challenging the global leadership of the US by suggesting that Washington needs to make room for China's rising power.

"China should shoulder some responsibility for the US and the US should share some power with China," Jin said. "The US elites won't like it," he added, "but they will have to" accept it.

Jin predicted that the Chinese economy would continue to grow in a much faster pace than America's. "That fact will change their minds," Jin said of US attitudes toward sharing power with China.

Before becoming heir apparent—according to the last party congress in 2007 is the position of first secretary of the Communist Party and then a few months later is the vice presidency of the Chinese government—Xi had little experience in the world beyond China.

Significantly though, he spent much of his career before moving to Beijing to the coastal area of Fujian and Zhejiang provinces across from Taiwan, the island nation that Beijing maintains belongs to China. In that capacity, he met many economic ties with Taiwan, and met frequently with Taiwan business leaders who made huge investments transforming the two provinces into one of China's most powerful economic engines.

In 2003, when he was elevated from provincial governor to party chief in Zhejiang, the top position there, Xi kept the portfolio of relations with Taiwan, even though Taiwan affairs were usually relegated to the governor, said Joseph Wu, a former representative of Taiwan to Washington and a member of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. In the mechanism, Wu said, he expects Xi to be "tougher" in calling for greater integration between Taiwan and the mainland, a policy that Taiwan has resisted.

Since becoming vice president, Xi has visited more than 50 countries, a concerted effort to get to know the world's future leaders, said Bo Zhiyue, senior research fellow at the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore, who tracks elite politics in China.

In contrast, Hu made 17 foreign visits during his tenure as vice president, he said.

One of the big changes from the past decade, when China's foreign policy was focused on "hiding our strengths and time" from abroad for its soaring domestic economy, will be a stronger emphasis on building up the military to protect China's interests in Asia and expand its reach abroad, Xi is perfectly positioned to take on that role.

"He is a strong leader in charge now," said Jin, the professor at Renmin University.

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"He is a strong leader in charge now," said Jin, the professor at Renmin University.

Xi will be in charge of a military whose budget almost certainly will grow at a pace with the economy, or even faster. The People's Liberation Army is investing or testing a sophisticated weaponry now under development, including space and long-range missiles capable of use against US aircraft carriers in the Pacific and ballistic missiles. The question is how it plans to exploit them.

"There are voices in China saying that now that the military has the capacity, they should use it now," said Phillip C. Saunders, director of the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the National Defense University in Washington.

As vice president, Xi has served as vice chairman of the Central Military Commission since 2010 under Hu. As part of the transition, he has delayed Xi's rise to the deputy post by one year, but that did little to undermine his longstanding ties to army leaders, Chinese officials say.

REUTERS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Sweden, through its Sweden Bank and Financial Committee (SEDC), invites interested consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the following project:

Name of Project	Malolos Water Treatment Inc. (MWTI) Project Loans Requirements
Brief Description	The Center shall review the required services to ensure the professional handling and implementation of MWTI treatment requirements which has been the biggest challenge in some of the cases and which has resulted in the delay in the implementation of the project.
Approved Budget for the Contract	Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) inclusive of all applicable taxes
Contract Duration	Two (2) months starting from the date of receipt of the "Notice to Proceed"

The list of minimum requirements is indicative in the eligibility factor. Eligibility of prospective consultants will be determined on the following criteria: Applicable experience of the Consultant, qualifications of proposed key staff to be assigned to the job, and current workload relative to capacity. Only the 10 highest consultants shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure is to be assigned shall be Quality Based Selection (QBS).

All interested parties to Eligibility Selection and Screening, the Security Performance Security, Non-Binding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the guidelines provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is below and follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1	Commence and availability of Eligibility Documents	November 3 to 13, 2017 (Mon. to Fridays) 8:00am to 5:00pm, Mon. to Fri. (MTWTF) Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
2	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline: Until November 13, 2017 at 10:00am Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
3	Opening of Eligibility Requirements/ Eligibility Check	November 13, 2017 Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
4	Results of Shortlisting	November 14, 2017
5	Issuance of the Request for Quotation (Notice Consultants)	November 15, 2017 (MTWTF) 8:00am to 5:00pm, Mon. to Fri. (MTWTF) Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
6	Pre-Bid Conference	November 16, 2017 10:00am Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
7	Deadline for Submission of Quotation	November 24, 2017
8	Opening of Quotation	November 24, 2017
9	Post-Qualification, Evaluation & Financial Award	November 27, 2017 and December 1, 2017 and 8:00am Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
10	Submission of Notice Technical & Financial Offer	December 1, 2017 (MTWTF) 8:00am to 5:00pm, Mon. to Fri. (MTWTF) Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
11	Opening of Notice Technical & Financial Offer	December 1, 2017 10:00am Bidding Room, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., Malolos City
12	Issuance of Notice of Award	December 4, 2017

The Eligibility Documents/Checklist may be obtained on the 2017 MWTI Consultancy as to Revision 1, Eligible to 3, Price Sets, 2017 Bldg., Mr. Eugene M. Hizon Road, Malolos, Bulacan from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Interested consultants may purchase the Eligibility Documents/Checklist for the 2017 MWTI Consultancy from 13 to 24 November 2017 at the Cashier Area, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, MWTI Bldg., 7-M Eugene M. Hizon, Malolos, Bulacan and upon payment of eligibility check for the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

We encourage you to submit only to shortlisted eligible Consultants who expressed of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) in the 2017 Cashier Area, 1st & Second Floor, MWTI Bldg., 7-M Eugene M. Hizon, Malolos, Bulacan and upon payment of eligibility check for the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

The 2017 MWTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or any time prior to the contract award, or not to award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for such action. Bidders are encouraged to submit their bids in person or by their duly authorized representatives. Bidders are encouraged to submit their bids in person or by their duly authorized representatives. Bidders are encouraged to submit their bids in person or by their duly authorized representatives.

Approved by:

ENGR. CHRISTOPHER S. SARMIENTO
Chief MWTI Consultancy

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The Nueva Ecija I Electric Cooperative, Inc. with office address at Brgy. Malagos, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, invites all qualified bidders to bid for Construction of 69 kV Line to Laguna, Jaen and San Roman, San Isidro, N.E.

LOT 1 - Materials Requirement
LOT 2 - Labor Requirement

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding process. Interested bidders shall comply and submit the following as minimum requirements:

a. Company Profile;
b. Business Registration and Permit
c. BIR/SSS Certificate;
d. List of clients for three (3) years
e. Financial Statement
f. Latest Income Tax Return
g. PCAB License

Submission of eligibility requirements shall be on November 9-13, 2017 and Notice of Accreditation shall be issued on November 15, 2017. Accreditation Fee is Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00).

Hereunder are the details of the competitive selection process:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 9-13, 2017	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
LOT-1 MATERIALS Requirement		
Pre-Bid Conference	November 14, 2017	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.n.
Final Bidding	November 21, 2017	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.n.
LOT-2 LABOR Requirement		
Pre-Bid Conference	November 14, 2017	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m
Final Bidding	November 21, 2017	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

All interested bidders may secure bidding amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) and bid fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). Posting of bid bond in either in the form of cash or manager's check which is equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price. The issuance of Notice of Award for Lot-1 and Lot-2 will be on November 23, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NEECO I hereby reserves the right to reject any and all applications as pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, matter any defect therein.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

US Air Force struggles with aging fleet

TOKYO—For decades, the United States Air Force has grown accustomed to such superlatives as unrivaled and unbeatable. These days, some of its key combat aircraft are being described with terms like geriatric and decrepit.

The aging of the US Air Force, a long-simmering topic in defense circles, made a brief appearance in the presidential debates when Republican nominee Mitt Romney cited it as evidence of the decline of US military readiness. His contention that the Navy is the smallest it's been since 1917 got most attention, thanks to President Barack Obama's quip that the Navy also has fewer "horses and bayonets."

But analysts say the Air Force has a real problem, and it will almost certainly get worse no matter who wins Tuesday's election. It was created in part by a lack of urgency in the post-Cold War era, and by design glitches and cost overruns that have delayed attempts to build next-generation aircraft.

Looming budget cuts limit the Air Force's ability to correct itself, they argue, as China's rise as a world power heightens the need to improve. And though the world's most formidable air force enjoys fund much as the Pentagon, it's get more than its share of modernization.

The US probably couldn't have fought the air wars over Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya without the KC-135 stratotanker, the Air Force's main aerial refueler, which allows fighter jets to remain airborne on long flights.

Americus Inn President Dwight Eisenhower in Russia for that.

The KC-135 came into service during Eisenhower's march in 1956. The newest of the roughly 400 tanker-transports in service started flying nearly half a century ago, in 1964.

"We are in unknown territory," said Lt. Col. Brian Kneiffner, who has been flying the KC-135 for 15 years and is head of operations for 374th Air Refueling Squadron at Kadena Air Base on Japan's southwestern island of Okinawa. "The unknown is an unfair point about the KC-135 but some assemble."

The KC-46A refueling tanker is being developed as a replacement, but probably won't start delivery for another five years. If Congress has its way, some Stratotankers could still be refueling aloft well into the 2040s.

The F-15, America's workhorse warplane since the Vietnam War, was designed to have a service life of about 8,000 flight hours. The Air Force has more than triple that, to 18,000 hours.

The F-16, another key fighter, has been in use since 1979. The Air Force began retiring the oldest ones two years ago.

Another 750-to-1 fighter is the A-10 Thunderbolt, which provides close air support for ground troops. It's now being revamped because its old ones were riddled with cracks. The Defense Department's budget proposes the cost of upgrading and refurbishing the aircraft will be $2.23 billion in the next 2013.

The Air Force is revamping its fighter fleet with the stealthy F-22 Raptor and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, but production of the F-22 was cut short after its price tag swelled to nearly half a billion dollars apiece. Delays and escalating costs have also dogged the F-35, which is now the most expensive Department of Defense procurement program ever.

The fabled U.S. "Dragon Lady" spy plane is still being used to keep watch over North Korea and other hot spots. The Soviet U-2 flew in 1955, and the legendary Lockheed Skunk Works started developing a successor to it in the 1960s. But the project was scrapped before the first one ever flew.

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A LIMITED Iranian Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker, which was built in 1958, at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. AP

Altar boy to choose Egypt's Copts' new pope

CAIRO—Egypt's Coptic Christians will kneel on Sunday, edict it to be their next leader after a blindfolded altar boy believed to be illiterated by God, choosen one of three bishops out of a box.

The selection of Metropolitan and Bishop of All Africa for the Holy See of St. Mark the Apostle will succeed Pope Shenouda III, who died in March leaving behind a community anxious about its future under an Islamist-led government.

He will be the 118th pope to follow directly back to the origins of Christianity and its Israel Mark, the apostle and author of one of the four Gospels, who brought the new faith to Egypt.

Nearly 2,500 Copts, public officials, MPs, journalists and local councillors already gathered in the Anba Rudeina Basilica for the original group of five to succeed Shenouda, who died at the age of 88 after four decades on the papal throne.

But on Bishop Bishoi, 54, a medical doctor and reputed ascetic known by several Cairo Bishop Damadeus of the Nile Delta province of Behaira, 63, and Father Rafael Awadallah Mina, the oldest of the four original candidates at 75.

Their names will now be placed in a transparent box on the altar of Cairo's St. Mark's Cathedral for Sunday's ceremony.

On Saturday, the interim head of the Church, Bishop Pachomius, was to choose 12 altar boys between the ages of five and eight, one of whom he will order to be blindfolded during the ceremony.

"We ask for the support of the Holy Spirit," Pachomius said in a speech after the ceremony began Sunday morning in St Mark's Cathedral.

The rites, and the one of an altar boy to choose the pope, "please a special blessing to the chosen one," he said.

Seven monastery servitors to remain down to an final play during the entire process, before a large congregation and televised. The three pieces of paper are all the same size, and up the same way and placed in the box.

Shenouda, a scandal, pragmatic leader, died in a critical time for the increasingly beleaguered minority, which has faced a surge in extremist attacks after an uprising overthrew president Hosni Mubarak in February 2011.

The pope serves as the spiritual leader of the country's Coptic Christians, who make up between nine and 10 percent of Egypt's 80-million population.

Amid increased fears about the community's future after Mubarak's overthrow, the new pope will be in many contact with Egypt's then Islamist president, Mohamed Morsi.

The case of Islamists after the revolution has sparked fears among Copts of further persecution at home, despite Morsi's repeated promises to his opponents that "the old Egypt is gone." In the latest incident, five Copts were injured in clashes with Muslims at a church in a village south of Cairo on October 28, security sources said. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Chinese ships back in disputed waters, says Japan

TOKYO—Four Chinese government ships sailed into the territorial waters of disputed Tokyo-controlled islands in the East China Sea on Sunday, Japan's coast guard said. The maritime surveillance vessels entered the 12 nautical-mile zone around Uotsuri-jima, the main island in the disputed chain called the Senkaku Islands in Japan and the Diaoyu Islands in China at about noon, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Chikao Kawai "strongly protested to the Chinese ambassador to China Yanghua about the Chinese ships' intrusion into Japan's territorial waters, and this growing frequency of such moves" by telephone, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said in a statement. Chinese vessels have visited or sail out of what Japan says is the sovereign territory over the past two months since Tokyo nationalized most of the islands in the group. AFP

Another Tibetan burns self to protest Chinese rule

BEIJING—The Tibetan plateau caused to wallet says a man has died after setting himself on fire in the latest self-immolation protesting Chinese rule. The monk-turned-activist based in Dhaka, India, says the Tibetan self-immolated on Sunday morning in Tongren, a monastery town in southern China's Qinghai province. A photo on its website shows a lacerated body was rounded by monks. Beijing-based Tibetans have set themselves on fire in recently. Tibetan regions casualties in 2011 to protest what activists say is Beijing's heavy-handed rule in the region. Many have called for the return of their exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. AP

Nanny charged with murder in NY stabbing case

NEW YORK—A nanny suspected of killing the two young children she was caring for on Oct. 23 in their Upper East Side apartment was charged on Saturday night with first-degree murder, police said. The news, Yoselyn Ortega, 58, is charged with fatally stabbing the children, Lorna Sean, 6, and her brother, Lee, 2. Ortega, who the police say tried to kill herself after the attack, has been receiving at Bina York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. NYTBU

Japan to develop missile-detecting drone

TOKYO—Japan is planning to develop an unmanned drone that could help detect North Korean rocket launches ahead of its rival, China's military buildup, a report said on Sunday. The defense ministry has requested 3 billion yen ($37 million) over the next five years to develop the aircraft, which would conduct operations in 2020, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported without citing sources. The development of the drone, which will be equipped with an infrared sensor, is seen as low-altitude intruders, comes after Japan failed to detect North Korea's failed rocket launch in April. The launch, described by Pyongyang as an attempt to put a satellite into orbit but condemned by world leaders as a disguised ballistic missile test, was the nuclear-armed state's first since Kim Jong-un took power following the death of his father Kim Jong-il. AFP

Bomber kills anti-Taliban politician in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—A prominent anti-Taliban politician in northwestern Pakistan was killed Saturday in a suicide bombing, underscoring the dangers faced by politicians who stand up to the insurgents. NYTBU

Acer Presents Windows 8 Tablets

- Featuring multipurpose viewing on Full HD touchscreens

It is crunch time for your latest project and you need to keep up your productivity level to meet your deadline. Unfortunately, you'll be out of the office practically the whole day and you can't bring your workstation with you, a preposterous idea, while the company-issued laptop is in near death.

Worrying at this time is not the answer so you need a solution. It's best there are Acer Iconia tablet PCs at hand.

Acer presents two of its newest Windows® 8 tablets in the market. The **ICONIA W510** evolves the computing experience with three different modes of touchscreen operation, while the **ICONIA W700** is the best-performing Windows® 8 tablet with the added versatility of a cradle. Both designed to set new standards in ergonomics and user-friendliness.

The most unique part of the W510 tablet is the in-mode, allowing users to touch, type and view. Aside from the conventional tablet mode, it can be used in productivity mode. A detachable keyboard dock can be connected to the tablet for optimal typing as well as extending the battery life up to 18 hours. Rotating the tablet 285 degrees allows it to be used in presentation mode, which is excellent for watching a video, browsing a webpage or viewing a PowerPoint presentation.

Iconia | W510

In addition, the W510 has **Always On, Always Connect technology**, and a 10.1-inch touchscreen, providing a wider viewing angle with more vibrant, consistent and accurate colors. It is an everyday tablet with convertible functions, smartly designed for modern day explorers whose primary needs are freedom of usage for slate, keyboard and hands-free touch.

Acer's W700 comes with a multi-purpose cradle that allows for several viewing options. When using it in landscape, it can be tilted up to 70 degrees for better viewing, or 20 degrees for convenient touch. Furthermore, it can be used vertically like a portrait for easy browsing and reading. The W700 also has three USB 3.0 ports for expansion.

The W700 is equipped with an 11.6-inch Full HD touchscreen as well as Dolby® Home Theater® for multimedia pleasure. It is set to become the optimum-performance Windows 8 tablet for modern day explorers on the-go, at home or in the office.

"It is no surprise to us that today's IT products are now designed to answer the various IT needs of demanding users today. For businesses who look at productivity as main driver for its growth, IT products are now an absolute necessity and would always be at the top of their wish lists," explains Manuel Wong, General Manager of Acer Philippines Inc.

Pre-installed on the latest Acer computers, Windows 8 let's you personalize your start screen with live tiles to keep you updated about the things you care about most. In real time. Amazing apps work together seamlessly. And Windows 8 is Cloud-connected so you can access your favorite services wherever you are.

Iconia | W700

ICONIA W700-3321AG06ar

Windows 8 (Single Language) • **3rd-generation Intel® Core™ i3 - 3217U processor** (3MB L2 cache, 1.8GHz, DDR3 1600MHz) supporting Intel® 64 architecture, Intel® Smart cache • Mobile Intel® HM77 Express Chipset • with Acer InviLink™ Nplify™ 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi Certified • **4GB DDR3L onboard system memory / 64GB SSD + 11.6" Full HD 1920 x 1080 high-brightness** (350-nit) Acer CrystalView® LED-backlit TFT LCD with integrated multi-touch, supporting 10-finger touch • Intel® HD Graphics 4000 with 128 MB of dedicated system memory, supporting Microsoft® DirectX® 11 • Weight: 0.95kg (2.09lbs) with 3-cell battery life • **up to 8hrs battery life** • built-in Acer Crystal Eye HD Webcam • built-in Bluetooth® 4.0+HS • with Accessories like Protective Cover, Acer USB-to-LAN cable, Acer HDMI® Micro-to-VGA converter, Cradle with USB 3.0 hub, DC-in 3-pin 65W AC adapter • 1 year limited local warranty – parts & labor

Iconia | W510

ICONIA W510-3743G32ibw

Windows 8 (Single Language) • **Intel® Atom™ processor Z3740** (1MB L2 cache, 1.33GHz, DDR3 1066MHz) • Onboard memory (no support) 32GB of LPDDR3 800MHz memory • **64GB embedded MMC** • **10.1" HD 1366 x 768 resolution** high-brightness (300-nit) Acer CrystalView® LED-backlit TFT LCD with integrated 5-point multi-touch screen, supporting finger touch, image lens rotation • **Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator 3600**, with 64 MB of dedicated system memory, supporting Microsoft® DirectX® 11, Dual independent display support • with Acer InviLink™ Nplify™ 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi Certified • Weight: 580g (1.27 lbs) • **up to 9hrs Wi-Fi Browsing** • 167.6 (W) x 258.3 (L) x 8.8 (T) mm (6.60 x 10.17 x 0.35 inches) • Dual-in Front and Rear Facing Acer Crystal Eye HD webcam • built-in Bluetooth® 4.0+HS and Micro SD card reader • 1 year limited local warranty – parts & labor

About Acer

Since its founding in 1976, Acer has broken barriers between people and technology, enabling users in explore, create and grow. Acer ranks no. 3 for notebook PCs globally (Gartner, data 2011). The Acer Group employs 6,000 people across the globe, and revenues for 2011 reached US$15.7 billion. Acer's Liquid Galaxies model is a testimonial to the company's success, where its multi-brand approach integrates Acer, Gateway and Packard Bell brands in world-wide markets. Acer designs environmentally friendly products and, with its vendors, has established a green supply chain.

Acer is proud to be a Worldwide Partner of the Olympic Movement. That includes supporting the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games and London 2012 Olympic Games.

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ POC panel tackles candidates' eligibility/A30

SPORTS
Editor Tobbie S. Miravites
Assistant Editor Francis T. Ochoa

■ Blazers spoil Lin debut in Houston/A31

JEFF Cruz of Rain or Shine fans the bases and celebrates as Meralco's CARP Hodge (partly hidden) dips under (above but right) a pitch. Sol Mercado tries to assist Hodge. ANDY ZAPATA

RoS shocks Bolts

Tubid rescues Barako Bull

By Mauvgit. Carillo

RAIN or Shine was as good as a night Meralco was on lead, even as Barako Bull snapped a three-game slide in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations before a mammoth crowd yesterday at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The Elasto Painters grabbed a piece of second place after walking to a 106-91 victory over the Bolts, whose fans held on just nine points in the second period and 28 overall in the first half.

After building leads of as many as 33 in the fourth quarter, the Painters wound up with the worst lopsided victory in the season-opening tournament as they rebounded from a nerve-wracking 104-102 loss to Barako Bull last week.

Barako Bull won the first game of a two-day doubleheader with Wesmill Tubid hitting a short stabwatch 18 seconds left in a 95-94 decision of Globalport.

The Energy improved to 3-5 overall while dealing the Batang Pier their seventh loss in eight outings.

Meralco is one of the better teams in the league and I am really surprised that we beat them in the manner that we did," Rain or Shine coach Yeng Guiao said after dealing the Bolts their third loss in seven games. "I was looking forward to tonight's midseason struggle.

"But I think early on, we just got our rhythm both on offense and defense."

Rain or Shine backed up its defense with a huge offensive effort, blasting the Bolts with a 28-point first quarter.

POC panel tackles Go's eligibility

By Jose Mariano

THE ELIGIBILITY of athletics chief Go Teng Kok to contest the presidency of the Philippine Olympic Committee in the coming POC elections will be tackled today by the election committee headed by former congressman Nicholas Chavez.

Go, who is challenging Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., the incumbent POC president, in the election on Nov. 30 in Subong Country Club, obtained a recent Supreme Court order limiting the legitimacy of his candidacy. The ruling was penned by Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno.

"The POC can't ignore the highest court of the land," said the controversial Go, who was earlier declared "persona non grata" by the POC general assembly after he sued top officials of the Olympic body over a leadership row in the Luzon-do federation.

"There is no basis anymore to disqualify

TOLENTINO: Eligible or not?

COJUANGCO: Complete ticket

me," Chavez said.

Go's camp has also questioned the eligibility of Cojuangco's running mate, Tolentino, who is also the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Tolentino is also the secretary general of the national chess federation which Pichay heads. POC rules allow only one official from an NSA to stand in the elections.

POC Abra vice president Alfonso Lopez earlier said Dangiz is qualified to run since he had served the Philippine Volleyball Federation's vice president for two more years before becoming president of the PVF almost two years ago.

According to Section 12, Article VII of the POC constitution and by-laws, an executive board member cannot either be the president, secretary general or vice president of an NSA for at least two years.

In Cojuangco's ticket are Jose Romasanta of triathlon (chair), Joey Romasanta of baseball (first VP), Jeff Tamayo of golf (second VP), Julian Camacho of wushu (treasurer), Pichay (auditor) and executive board members Jose Carino (judo), Cynthia Carreon (gymnastics), Antonio Leviste (kayak) and Ernesto Echauz (sailing).

The opposition ticket has not fielded anybody against Cojuangco but has Marino Pantovialla of weightlifting as reelection candidate for POC chair, Lupe Lewis-Imamura for VP, Tolentino, Bong Ribano of squash (treasurer), Godofredo Gallocho of golf (auditor) and executive board members Victor Africa of fencing, Sandhalli Hernz Saraneno, Ednana and Dungo.

JUNIOR CHAMPS LEAGUE

Red Cubs, Staglets show strength

NCAA teams continued to rule the roost in the Philippine Secondary Schools Basketball Championship (PSSBC) as 20-time champion San Beda used arch rival San Sebastian to down their foes respectively.

With Junior Philippine U-18 standout Avin Tolentino, skipper Jhaz Diego and Finals MVP Jayvee Mocon at the firing end, the Red Cubs outlasted last year's UAAP champion National University, 71-69, last week and trounced themselves as heavy favorites to win the inaugural staging of the tournament among the three junior teams in Metro Manila.

"Their players are more ready to play in college, especially Tolentino, Diego and Mocon. They've been playing beyond his age, so I will not be surprised if he becomes one of the most sought after players around."

The 6-foot-4 Tolentino averaged 17.5 points in two games while Diego and Mocon scored 16 and 15, respectively for the Red Cubs, NCAA's champions for the last four years who led Group B.

San Beda downed Hope Christian High School, 93-81, in the opener last Oct. 27.

Nor to be outdone, the SSC-Staglets joined Group A following their stunning 56-50 win over UAAP champion De La Salle University Baby Tamaraws last Sunday where they threw defensive-bound Jerric Pingoy out his comfort zone with their solid defense.

The win over the Baby Tamaraws was a thing follow-up to the Staglets' 108-98 decision of undefeated Senior School of Mentor Manila Young Lion Basketball Association (SMYLBA).

Like the Red Cubs, the Staglets also boasted on their members Ilbert Gayoso, Michael Calisaan, Jon Almonte and Gerjok Adanza Jr. to stay unbeaten in the tournament sponsored by Wrangler, Reload, Home Plates, Instore, Builders, Jumbo Plastic Linoleum, Unilab Underwears, MRC Networks, Blackmores Sports and Hapee Toothpaste.

University of Santo Tomas also shares by downing NCI, 72-63, in the opener and Letran, 69-66, in overtime last Sunday.

Meantime, the game between the Red Cubs and the Hope Christ's came in the opener will be aired on Basketball TV (Channel 34) at 11 p.m. on Wednesday through the sponsorship of Eerdes Paints and Bleu Glass Cladera.

World Cable Wakeboard unfolds this weekend

By Cedell P. Tapao

DEFENDING champions Nick Davies and Gemma Mitchell of Britain headline a stellar field vying for top honors in the 2012 World Cable Wakeboard Championships on Saturday and Sunday at Orca Wakeboard Park in Clark Field, Angeles City.

The two-day event that has lured participants from 32 countries will also serve as the Open gold medallists in the recent Tokyo World Cups—Annette's Angelika Barber and Germany's Frederik von Dönitz.

Wakeboard aces from 32 countries, including Brazil, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Switzerland and the Philippines...as he led by Samantha Bernardo, Jessica Trinidad and Carlo dela Peña—are also joining the competition this weekend with the qualifying phase on Nov 8.

Organizers are a successful staging of the

CHAMPION

event as a boost to the fact of the International Wakeboard and Waterboard Federation to get the sport included to the Olympic rides due in 2020.

The event will be streamed live over the WorldTube Sports Hub link to full FB:

The event is funded by Rizza Calderaya, WWF Wakeboard 2008 Metro, Inland, Gatorade, Dora Homes, Sealed Inc., Rip Curl, Monster Energy Drink, Devant LED TV, Smart, Department of Tourism Region III, Adidas Parks and Pilot Travel Marketing Corporation and by the Wakeboarding Association of the Philippines.

ACCI Corp Cup tees off Nov. 26 at Sta. Elena

THE ARCHITECTURAL Centre Club Inc. (ACCI) hosts the fourth Corporate Cup Golf Tournament among the country's golfing architects, engineers, construction workers and associates, Nov. 26 at Sta. Elena Golf Club in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

The shotgun start is at 7:00 a.m. with scoring to be based on the Stableford format.

First held in 2009 through ACCI Golf Club chair Fellando Sevilla Jr., Sta. Elena Head of IDP & Assistant to Luis Taylor of D.M. Consunji, Reynaldo Campo (ACCI Past President) and Alex Perez, the Corporate Cup has grown in stature.

The club's present set of officers include chair Dida Rosa Sevilla, Pardos Calpo (Pres), Ding Virtus, Nestor Jalosjos, Willy Bautista, Romy Salas and Sheila Gomez.

Registration is ongoing. For inquiries, call/ACCI at 8990-2600 o 0910-4568205.

The 18-hole event is backed by Solarvista, CEOT Konstruct Inc., ED, Sevilla Industrial and Development Corp. and Trans Philippines Inc.

Unilab Tri United 3 set Sunday in Alabang

A RECORD field of 500 is expected in the Unilab Active Health's Tri United 3 slated Nov. 11 at Nissin Park inside Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

Triathletes in the sprint distance course will be swimming 900 meters in the De La Salle-Golf pool followed by a 30.1 km bike and a 7.1 km run on undulating roads around the village.

Mini-sprint distance (300m swim-7.5K bike-1.7K run) will be held in another section of the village close to Nissin Park.

The race is the final leg of the 2012 Tri United series open to Unilab Active Health's Tri United 1 to 3 and Nissin Park inside Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

Triathletes in the sprint distance course will be swimming 900 meters in the De La Salle-College

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Ryder Cup star Poulter snares 2-shot WGC victory

POULTER AP

KOHLER, Wis. (AP) — Ian Poulter shot a 7-under 65 to rally from a four-shot deficit and overtake Keegan Bradley on the back nine Sunday to win the HSBC Champions on Sunday.

Poulter, who sparked the European squad to victory at the Ryder Cup this year, had eight birdies against one bogey in the final round to finish at 21-under 267 overall on the Ohinhibi Course at Mission Hill Golf Club.

It was the Englishman's second World Golf Championship victory. He also captured the Accenture Match Play Championship in 2010—and his first title of any kind since the Volvo World Match Play Championship in May 2011.

Phil Mickelson (66), Jason Dufner (64), Scott Piercy (65) and Brian Mc Bride (65) tied for a tie for second at 19-under 269.

Lee Westwood and Louis Oosthuizen, the co-leaders overnight, slumped to equal sixth after struggling on the greens and posting identical scores of 71.

Poulter was the hero for the European squad at the Ryder Cup, making five straight birdies alongside Rory McIlroy to rally the pair to beat U.S. rookie sensation and give the Europeans the point they needed to keep their hopes alive.

Poulter had four wins in four matches at Medinah and improved his career Ryder Cup record to 12-3—the highest winning percentage of any European golfer in history.

But he was winless on the PGA and European tours this year and said before the HSBC Champions that he wanted a title badly.

Starting the day four shots back in a share of fourth place, the Englishman surged into the lead after birdieing two holes on the front nine and then two more after the turn. Mickelson and Bo tried to stay close, but both missed opportunities to pull even. AP

Blazers spoil Lin debut in Houston

HOUSTON Rockets' Jeremy Lin drives around Portland Trail Blazers rookie Damian Lillard to record half action in Houston. AP

HOUSTON—Rookie Damian Lillard scored 26 points, including eight in overtime, and the Portland Trail Blazers slowed down James Harden in a 95-85 win over the Houston Rockets on Saturday night.

Lillard and Nicolas Batum each made a 3 to help Portland open an 87-81 lead early in overtime. Harden then made a pair of free throws before Lillard converted a reverse layup. His second triple in overtime pushed Portland's lead to 91-85 with 1:25 left.

Harden led the Rockets with 24 points in his home debut, but he wasn't as dominant as he was in the first two games. He scored 37 and a career-high 45 points in his first two games after he was acquired in a deal with Oklahoma City last week. The NBA's Sixth Man of the Year signed a five-year, $60-million contract extension on Wednesday.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Trail Blazers.

Jeremy Lin had 13 points and seven assists in his home debut for the Rockets, who lost for the first time this season.

The game was tied with 1:17 to go before Lin made a layup while being fouled by Batum. He sank the free throw to give Houston an 81-79 lead.

Matthews tied it again with a 3 with just under a minute left.

Houston had a chance to win it in regulation, but Portland knocked the ball out of Harden's hands seconds before the buzzer.

Defending champion Miami Heat boasted best home record in defeat in New York the night before to beat the winless Denver Nuggets, 119-116.

Ray Allen's four-point play with 6.7 seconds left paved the difference and sent Greece to its third straight loss to start the season.

Chris Bosh was dominant with 46 points, while LeBron James finished with 23 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, and Allen scored 23 for the Heat.

In other matches, Boston showed toughness Washington, 89-86; Dallas trounced Charlotte, 126-99; Indiana needed two overtime periods to see off Sacramento, 106-98; New Orleans toppled Chicago, 101-88; Brooklyn outwitted 107-106 win over Toronto; Milwaukee edged out Cleveland, 105-102; San Antonio beat Utah, 110-100; and Golden State edged L.A. Clippers, 114-113. AP

Super cars coming for GT3 race

TRINITY/OUR professional drivers will arrive in the country with their super cars early next year to see action in the prestigious GT Race Global at Southeast Global City in Tagaig.

"We are lucky our country has finally been chosen as a venue of the GT3 race, which is usually reserved for the world class high-speed countries," said movie actor and event spokesperson Albert Martinez.

"I only know that our economy has become very competitive. The races will further boost our country's image globally."

According to Martinez, a car enthusiast himself, sports TV channel ASPN will cover the GT Race Global for about 260 million viewers worldwide.

ESPN will have crew on site at the GT Race Global to cover the race and interview drivers and race officials.

GT3 racing features super cars, such as Lamborghini, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Corvette, Audi, Porsche, Lotus, BMW, Maserati and Mercedes Benz, which sport engine power of more than 400 horsepower and beyond.

"Imagine a car accelerating from zero kilometer to 200 km per hour in just a mere second. That's the GT3 car," Martinez said.

The super car drivers include Sir Lambos Chandler Madagascar, the record GT3 Asia Series champion, who will drive his Lamborghini Gallardo.

"It's about time the Philippines joined the GT3 Aston Asian Circuit," said Dilandia, a race car legend. "It's only fitting that this exciting, fun, glamorous and prestigious international sport is hosted by a tiger economy."

GT3 Asia races are held every year in China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore, drawing hundreds of thousands of racing fans.

Martinez said he expects about 200,000 fans to watch the GT3 race at BGC.

"The race car drivers even more fun, as we see the GT Race Global is the Philippines' become a national event that every Filipino can be proud of," he said.

Pagunsan returns to Asian Tour

PAGUNSAN

SINGAPORE—Jeffrey Pagunsan of Jervis Dy, golfer returns to the scene of his biggest moments in the Asian Tour last year when he matches down against some of the world's best golfers in the Blackburn Barbers Singapore Open at Serene Golf Club starting this Thursday.

World No. 1 Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, Adam Scott of Australia, a three-time winner of the tournament, first-time Major winner Phil Mickelson and no fewer than 10 Asian Tour winners are in the crack field chasing the $1 million top purse.

Pagunsan, who will be looking for redemption as he seeks to avenge last year's heartbreaking play-off loss to Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, jumps on top of the Asian Tour Order of Merit with his runner-up finish and went on to become the first Filipino to win the OOM derby.

Having based himself in Japan for most of the year, the Filipino has been enjoying a good run of form of late by making seven consecutive cuts, including a tie for fourth at the Asian Pacific Championship in Malaysia and second at the Japan Open. Asian Tour News

Guam stint for future Red Cubs

CLEAN LIVING

Manuelo B. Mejia

PLAYING in the shadows of their more popular and experienced elders, three San Beda age group basketball teams get their chance to grab the spotlight by playing in grassroots action in Guam.

"This is part of the school's sports development program to enable the young ones to hone their skills in the dash-and-dribble game," said a team member. "For sure, the lessons learned from this friendly tour will serve as a valuable experience which they could later apply in their adult life."

The team-bound squads are the 13-and-under, 14-and-under and 12-and-below categories will be under head coaches Jem Romero, Mario Bigo, Wes Gandy, Nonoy Abreu and JS Gamalo. Also in the team as assistant coaches are Mark Jimenez, Andy Mejia and Nono Almeda.

Jim Badolato, the longtime Red Cubs head coach and San Beda athletic moderator, is head of delegation while Arian Arellanoda is the team manager.

* * *

The San Beda Red Cubs recently won their fourth straight NCAA title by humbling the San Sebastian Stags(co, 69-51).

In cashing the school's 20th junior basketball crown, Arvin Tolentino and Joebert Cariaso combined for 37 big points while 6-foot-2 Jerwin Mocon excelled in defense and helped San Beda limit San Sebastian to just 21 points in the second half.

Mocon contributed 11 points and hauled down 17 rebounds to offset coach Boyong said was as "a game-changing performance."

The other members of the winning team were Axel Dilpa, Nico Almonte, Lance Abadie, Rudge Vargas, Rey Bonbyadahy, Evan Fetonguio, Deejay De Villores, Cadlzor Romero, Jb Gumanoy, Franz Abuda and Papoy Macapagong.

* * *

American veteran international Shane Van Boening pocketed the Philippines' campaign in the 2008 US Open when he beat former No. 1 ranked billiards player Dennis Orcollo, 13-9, in Norfolk, Virginia, to win the prestigious tournament.

Earlier pitted former World 8-ball and 9-ball champion Ronnie Alcano to win the event since he has the talent to take over from the veteran Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

Reyes, who is now 58 years old and Bustamante, 46, cannot be on top forever.

"We must realize this and be prepared," once said Antonio "Paeng" Payos of Payos Sports, the country's longtime billiards benefactor together with older brother, former legislator Jose "Pepe" Payos.

Orcollo made the finals against Boening by first beating countrymen Elvis Reyes and then Alex Pagulayan in the losers' bracket.

But Boening earlier gained the first slot at the expense of Pagulayan in their semifinal match in the winners' bracket. Boening won $25,000 while Orcollo pocketed the runner-up purse of $15,000.

Alcano, the 46-year-old "cueless tiger" from Calumba, Laguna, became the third Filipino to win the US Open title after Reyes won in 1991 and Pagulayan in 2005.

Why is Alcano so good? The 5-foot-11 ace has yet what it takes to succeed: uncanny skills with the cue stick, a rare international experience, zodiacal sixth pocket, not to mention his "cueless" and flawless gentleman. And like Reyes, Alcano was also born poor. He grew up sleeping on pool tables and failed to finish high school.

Still, the span of billiards-spawned great-opportunities for him. Under the patronage of businessman Perry Mandaluyong Pearson Cinco, Alcano is now a millionaire.

CEREMONIAL ROLL Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, PSC chair Ritchie Garcia, Jovy Gamboa of Team Boysen and Alex Lim of Team Prima (from right) make the ceremonial roll during the opening of the 11-a-PBC-PSC-PSC Open bowling championships presenting at SM Center Ilocos at Plaza of Asia in Pasay City. Looking on is PBC president Ernesto "Ted" Lopa.

ROACH Personal

'On Freddie Roach' sizzles on HBO

"ON FREDDIE Roach," the new season-ender series from renowned filmmaker and Emmy nominee Peter Berg, launched in an episode season last Oct. 26 on HBO and HBO HD.

New episodes are weekly at 11 p.m. on HBO and HBO HD.

The revamped show focuses on the hard-working Roach, who operates the famed Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, where superstar Manny Pacquiao and other world champions under the trainer's wing train.

This intensely personal look at the world-famous boxing trainer chronicles his life and career against the backdrop of Pacquiao's drama, as viewers very likely linked to his every part as a respected boxer.

Filmmaker produced by Berg ("Friday Night Lights"), this HBO Original Programming presentation is a co-production of Film 44 and Mayor Entertainment.

Big stag derbies slated at Pasay

THE 2012 stag fighting season recommences today at Pasay City Cockpit with the Digmaan Pambansa 9-Stag Derby, a national derby series with P50-million at stake.

The organizing Philippine Professional Cockers of Gamefowl Breeders (PPCGB) is adopting the following format: 2-stag elimination, 3-stag semifinals and 4-stag finals.

Federation president Wilson Ong, the 2011 World Slasher Cup champion, said the entry fee is P6,000 and minimum bet P5,000.

Another "Digmaan" elimination series on Nov. 10 with the quarterfinal advancing to the semifinals on Nov. 16. The finals is on Dec. 6.

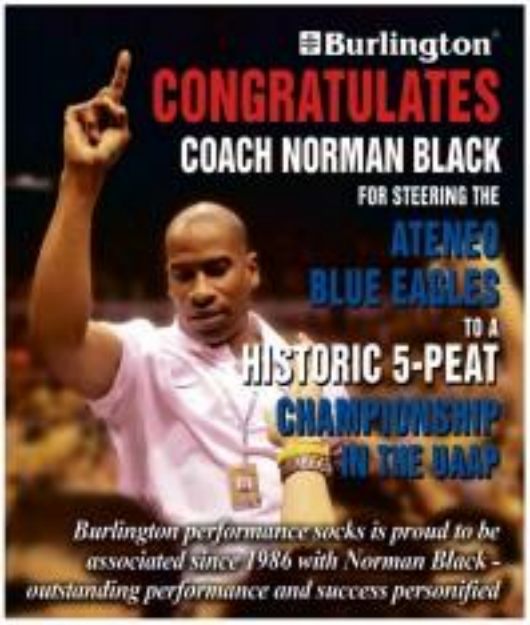
Meanwhile, PCC "will also stage a 4-stag derby hosted by Mayor Diahnen on Friday and the PCBEA Open 5-Stag Derby on Nov. 12.

RGBA semifinals unfolds today

QUALIFIERS from the two-FGA tournament finalists Association "Batalaan" eliminations for the 2012 Bakakeo National 11-Stag Derby unfolds today at 8-a-m stag semifinals at Smart Araneta Coliseum. The quarterfinals is around Bakakeo Arena after the tandem 2-segment Eight Stags and St. Nicholas Mogbacan and 8-p.m.

The season is crowning a P1.5-million guaranteed prize, including the P1-million bounty for the champion association.

Backed by Thunderbird Kennedy, action shifts to P'hong Jaguars tandem on Nov. 18 played by a Nov. 12 showdown between Captain Ambrosio Obsioan and 4-stag semifinals at P'hong on Nov. 18.



SPORTS

SBC booters slip past Arellano U

By Cedell P. Tapao

SUBSTITUTE Ashley Flores provided the flash of inspiration as NCAA defending champion San Beda slipped past Arellano University, 3-2, Saturday in the 2012 PFF(A Football Pro-Season Cup at Mamali Field in Sto. Tomas City, Laguna.

The 18-year-old Flores fired home what turned out to be the game-winner in the 43rd minute as San Beda climbed to the top in Group C with a second straight victory.

The Red Booters nearly wasted a two-goal edge as Arellano recorded a second-half fightback before Flores secured the win. Alejandro Ikkiki opened the scoring for San Beda with a long-range strike in the 11th minute before Aaron Carlos doubled the lead 12 minutes later.

Arellano reduced the deficit at halftime through Alvin Ghavris free kick in the 39th minute. Then Flores delivered the equalizer from the penalty spot eight minutes into the second half.

San Beda coach Jeff Limon felt his squad was sluggish because of the nearly two-week break after the University Games.

In other senior matches, Ateneo-Flying V pummeled University of Perpetual Help, 8-1, while Philippine Christian University tamed Jack Magnus, 3-1, in the tournament organized by Pilipil Flying V and sponsored by Shinsko, Sacwil, Nestor's Spring, Mobery, NJO-Guerrapolis, Reyses Paints, ISEG, Tapsuwan/Sunflower Resin, Bacchus, CDO-San Marino Crested Tomato and Pag-Ibig Lenders.

Junior Arrieta scored two goals, including a 35th minute strike as the Fastest E tipped Lyceum, 3-2, while Emilio Aguinaldo College battled National University to a 1-all draw.

In junior play the San Beda Red Cubs walloped the Lyceum Junior Pirates, 11-0, while the Ateneo Blue Eaglets repulsed the University of Santo Tomas Tiger Cubs, 4-0.

Michael Antony Widmeng fired a hat trick for Ateneo, which jacked up its record to four points on a win and a draw.

PBA on AKTV app launched

SPORTSiv, the sports unit of the TV5, has launched the PBA on MYX app for Android smartphones.

Smart and Sportel teamed up to create this "second screen" app for PBA fans, allowing them to follow the games. Scores and statistics updated in real time.

League leaders in statistics, league standings as well as news and video, through InterAKTV.ph, are delivered to fans right at their fingertips.

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **Pressure on to meet** exports goal, officials say /B3-8

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

PPP project changes may cost gov't ₱500M

Daang Hari road has yet to start 11 months after award

By Dianne L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT'S proceeds from the Daang Hari link may be cut in half after it was revealed that the Department of Public Works and Highways approved a last-minute change in the project's interconnection design without the consent of the operator of the South Luzon Expressway to which the tollway will connect.

Due to the snag, work on the 8-kilometer tollroad—won by the Ayala group with a P963-million bid—has yet to begin almost 11 months after the project was awarded, according to officials of the concession obtained by the Inquirer.

More significantly, it stays to be solved with the project said the new design proposal approved by

INFOGRAPHICS B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 31, 2012
41.180
STOCK MARKET
2.16

MAYBANK LEADS MALAYSIA'S MOST VALUABLE BRANDS FOR 2012

Maybank is Malaysia's Most Valuable Brand (MMVB) for 2012. The MMVB is an annual recognition of Malaysian top brands jointly presented by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents of Malaysia (4As) and Media Prima, and undertaken by Interbrand, the world's leading valuation firm. A total of 30 brands have been shortlisted for this year's awards, based on financial performance, role of brand, and brand strength. Among the Malaysian brands present in the Philippines who made it to the list were Resorts World, AirAsia and Petronas.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in his speech read at the recent MMVB 2012 awarding event, said that "to thrive in today's economy, brands must possess the ability to connect emotionally with consumers and engage them with a meaningful experience." For Maybank, brand is a matter of focus and growth, and believes that it is one of the organisation's greatest strengths.

Indeed, Maybank proved its worth as a key player in the global market by being chosen as Malaysia's Most Valuable Brand for the third time. According to MMVB statistics, Maybank increased its brand value by 103.9%, the highest among the banking sector, since 2009 to RM 10,968 million from RM 5,374 million.

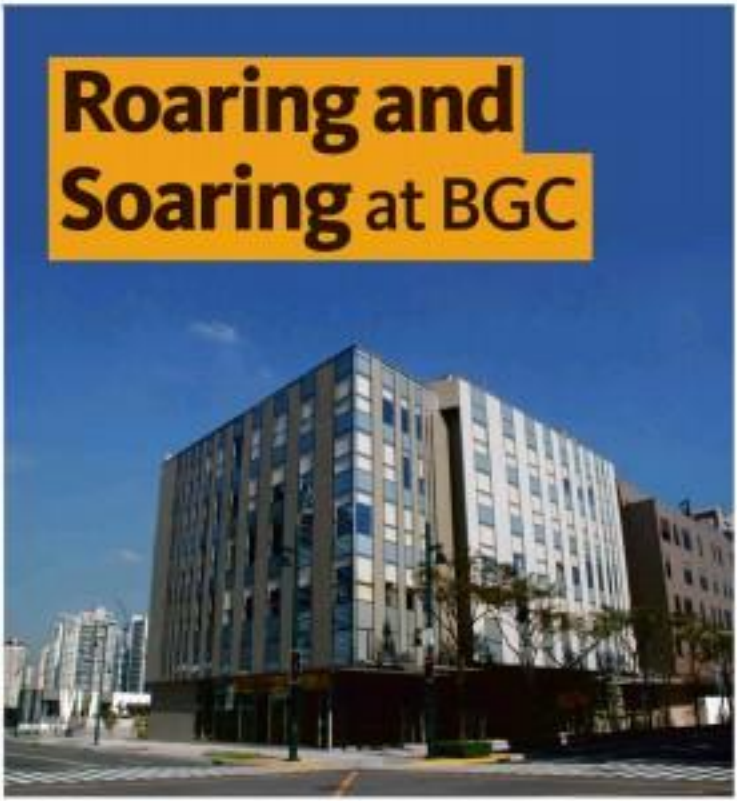
Maybank's refreshed campaign, "Humanising Financial Services Across Asia", and an aggressive programme of mergers and acquisitions has been attributed to helping elevate Malaysia's leading financial services provider to pole position.

Today, Maybank is present in 19 countries worldwide, employing 46,000 employees in more than 2,200 offices around the globe. Maybank President and CEO Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid said: "An organisation's brand and its success are interdependent, that is why Maybank consistently works hard in maintaining a good brand. The Maybank brand definitely contributed significantly to the bank's exemplary business performance and profitability for the past years. As a result, stakeholder experience in the form of quality customer experience is one of their key indicators for the brand's success."

In the Philippines, Maybank Philippines, Inc. (MPI) also implemented a transformation process of refreshing the brand in its 53 branches nationwide starting 2011 — from signages and customer touchpoints, to all its marketing materials. MPI also recently launched its credit card products and has transferred its head office to a new, upscale address in the heart of Bonifacio Global City.

MPI is also opening branch #54 – Maybank Main Office Branch, located at the Ground Floor of the Maybank Corporate Centre - on November 5, 2012.

Truly, Maybank has established itself as a strong brand. No one can stop this tiger in roaring louder and soaring higher.



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ALI sees ₱28.5B in sales from new projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. is bringing to the property market up to ₱28.5 billion worth of new residential inventory in the Makati central business district with the ongoing rollout of five upscale condominium towers strategically situated within Ayala Central.

The additional high-end condominium inventory comprises a total of about 1,900 residential units from the three residential towers of Park Terraces and two towers of the soon-to-be launched Garden Towers.

ALI executive vice president Bobby Dy estimated the sales value of the units from five residential towers at ₱28.5 billion. He added that ALI has started recognizing revenues given the progress in construction of earlier launched Park Terraces project, which was more 84 percent sold.

The first residential tower of Park Terraces, which was launched in 2010, will be ready for turnover to residents in 2013. Its Point Tower will be ready by 2014 and the third tower by 2017.

The first of the two towers of Garden Towers will be launched in the third week of November and targeted for turnover by 2019. Construction cost for the towers is estimated at ₱5 billion, while estimated revenues were placed at ₱6.3 billion, Dy said in a briefing last week.

"Living in a highly urbanized place like Makati, many people are looking for a place of refuge," Dy said, adding that for this development, gardens would be incorporated in every other floor. "It has never been done here (in the Philippines). It's something unique and elevates urban living to a new level."

Garden Towers' first building will have 54 storeys offering one, two and three bedroom units. About half of the development will comprise two-bedroom units with an average size of 160 square meters, almost 40 percent will comprise 79-sq m one-bedroom units, while the balance of 14 percent devoted to three- and four-bedroom units.

Dy said the one-bedroom units will sell for ₱10-14 million, two-bedroom units for ₱20-25 million and three-bedroom units for ₱29 million and above.

"We've got some very nice penthouse units priced at ₱140 million," Dy said, referring to the limited penthouse units.

Overall, Garden Towers is selling high-rise residential units at ₱170,000 a square meter.

With all these residential towers, which will be easily accessible from the redeveloped Chino Roces, ALI aims to "further ensure the transformation of the Ayala Center into Makati's cosmopolitan lifestyle hotspot with a capitol market."

PPP project changes

From page B1

the DPWH would not anywhere between ₱500 million and ₱800 million...a so-called "variation order" that would have to be shouldered by the government. The variation order would reduce the government's net proceeds from the Daang Hari project to as low as ₱600 million from the original winning bid of the Ayala group.

The scheme originally planned (but instead of using the toll-only design that was bid out by the DPWH, the Ayala group submitted two construction plans, which the DPWH accepted shortly before the financial bids were opened late last year.

"The new design that DPWH accepted is very different from the one they originally approved," the official said. "Instead of an at-grade road, there will now be a bigger toll plaza, while the connection to the northbound lanes of SLEx will require a longer tunnel under it."

The official explained that the Ayala proposal approved by DPWH was meant to connect to the existing SLEx design rather than taking into account the highway's upstream design, which would increase the number of lanes from eight to 10 to accommodate growing vehicular traffic volume—a provision that required the renovation of SLEx upstream. South Luzon Tollway Corp. (SLTC).

SLTC is the concessionaire for the 30-kilometer expressway from Alabang, Muntinlupa City to Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and is majority owned by Atlantic Aurum, a partnership between Cielo of Indonesia and San Miguel Corp.

Upon the request of the DPWH, SLTC earlier issued a "no objection" letter to the project on the condition that its future expansion plans would not be jeopardized. Upon learning of what it described as "material changes" made by DPWH, however, SLTC withdrew its consent and was now being blamed for the delay in the project.

The source explained that the Ayala group was now in a bind since DPWH has not informed bidders that SLTC's consent was limited to the at-grade design. "But DPWH accepted Ayala's design changes so DPWH also has to shoulder the consequences of it stuck as PDP realizes," the official said. "I don't think Ayala will agree to shoulder it, and neither will SLTC."

Last year, 10 bidders expressed interest in the Daang Hari PPP project, but only two entities—the Ayala and San Miguel groups—were prequalified by the government.

The official revealed that some disqualified bidders were now questioning the process adopted by the government because of two major changes made during tender process.

After the submission of the prequalification documents, DPWH issued the tariff for the project by 20 percent and lengthened the concession period from 25 to 30 years, issued through a bid bulletin, together with the revised draft concession agreement.

"But there were bidders who opened all of the project earlier because of the low tariff and short concession period and they didn't know that those changes were already adjusted," the official said.

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P7.2-B IPO of Chemrez affiliate gets SEC approval

D&L Industries to sell 30% equity to public

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved an initial public offering worth up to P7.21 billion planned by D&L Industries, one of the country's leading manufacturers of food ingredients and specialty plastic colorants and additives.

D&L plans to bring to public funds up to 30 percent of its post-IPO capital by selling 1.07 billion primary common shares at a maximum price of P5.85 each, based on the company's projections.

On top of the P6.24-billion maximum primary offering, majority shareholder Judd Holdings Co. has earmarked up to 180.75 million additional secondary common shares worth as much as P940.13 million to over-allotment in case of strong demand.

Mandated as the lead underwriter for the offering is Diamond ATR Gas Engr Capital Partners Inc., which will also act as the stabilizing agent with the option to take up the overallotment offer.

The formal order of registration from the SEC is expected to be issued shortly upon submission of certain documents, paving the way for the stock debut.

Proceeds from the offering are intended for improvements and acquisitions, payment of financial obligations and general corporate purposes. Through its operating units, D&L produces specialty product solutions for customers with niche focused plastic products businesses.

Through wholly owned subsidiary Glen Prac Dkk, D&L manufactures a diverse line of specialty fats and oils, culinary and other specialty food ingredients as well as industrial fats and oils for leading food manufacturers and fast food restaurant chains in the country.

Glen Fats caters to most of the leading food manufacturers and quick service restaurant chains in the Philippines such as Jollibee Foods Corp., McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, all of the major donut chains and food conglomerates. Universal Robina Corp.'s R&D products (food safety solutions such as creaming and emulsion agents for various customers.

D&L also owns Pan in Colours and D&L Polymers & Colours, which produce a line of various products used in manufacturing plastic products, including pigment blends, color and additives masterbatches and engineered polymers for local and offshore markets.

Another wholly-owned subsidiary, Acro-Pack Industries, is the only manufacturer of multi-walled aerosol products in the country and a leading customer filler for various home and personal care product producers.

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(Parent Company)
As of September 30, 2012

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Parent Company, Subsidiaries & Affiliates)
As of September 30, 2012

Dealing with the Cos

LEISURE and Resorts World Corp. may be teaming up with Alcazar Bay developer Zabelle Co to buy out Lucio Co's 50 percent stake in Hidden Coves but it may matter into a tie-up with the latter in another venture. Insider tidbits: Both investors the Ongpin Tee families. By the way, are not related). LISAC seems to be in good terms with both. In fact, LISAC is in preliminary talks with Lucio Co group on a prospective project to sell our Sta. Rosa property to the Ongpin family. Interesting! But pricing proves a sweet under Enriquez Price Club. Which is to be giving the stiffest competition to retail King Henry Ng's SM group.

SM gave LISAC's Ringo Ramos a big break years ago by backing its huge guides. But moving forward, part of LISAC's growth strategy is to look additional outlets outside its traditional shopping mall hubs. Jessica Dumlao

MVP eyes Mindanao

PETH the government shifting to ratify a peace deal with Muslim rebels, more investors are emboldened to score for assets in typically restless areas. Case in point: Mindanao and the list includes First Pacific Co. Ltd. big bet Manuel V. Pangilinan, although MVP is indeed looking at neighboring emerging markets like Vietnam and Myanmar, for his homeward Philippines Mindanao can be a new frontier to tap.

MVP is in talks with several landed families of Mindanao to discuss prospective partnerships in agriculture, a move seen that he group would be developing in the Philippines. While MVP has long been looking at prospects of deals particularly in business, sugar and rice production, the zooming of the Bangsamoro regime may be a catalyst to come up with something tangible.

On rice production, the group is in discussions on a prospective partnership with hybrid rice proponent Henry Lim Hen Liong for Genting Bauyan Corp. of Genting Holdings Corp. While food security is a big issue especially in the Philippines, "the group wants to address the need," said a source from the MVP group. Jessica C. Dumlao

APM's capital restructuring

AFTER a decade-long backdoor listing play in the stock market that triggered only sporadic computer dazzle, Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. has stepped out a capital restructuring scheme that will pave the way for its transformation from an oil and mineral company into a holding firm for businessman Lucio Co. Last week, APM's board approved a P10-billion capital build-up program, the change in the company's par value to P1 from 1 centavo and the spin-off of its oil mineral assets into a separate subsidiary.

With the change in par value once the change in by-laws has been approved by its stockholders and the Securities and Exchange Commission, APM will cease to be a penny stock and

the adjusted price will be P14.88 based on Wednesday's close, which makes sound and expansive and whose price fluctuation would henceforth be much closer compared to a penny stock.

There's also a question on what businesses will be infused in the future Lucio Co holding firm. Previously, the speculation was that APM would be like Ayala Corp. Andrew Tan's Alliance Global Group with gaming, property and beverage ventures on top of its existing coal business. But with the prospective buyout of Lucio Co. 50-percent interest in Hidden Coves by fellow Chinese businessman Zabelle Co., gaming is out of the picture at least in the near term.

Co shares were down by 1.6 percent to 14.68 centavos on Wednesday last week, giving the company a market capitalization of P19.3 billion—bigger than the market cap of some listed stocks like Petron Corp. and IM Chua Supermarts Corp. Dona Dumlao

No airplane, no problem

MALIBU had to struggle with the influx of guests that swarmed its new Grosse Island Club of businessman Bobby Ongpin initially ruled out the idea of chartering an Inspiration Express 6400 turboprop every weekend to ferry people to and from the exclusive resort off the coast of Quezon province.

Due to "technical issues," however, the resort had to give up the 6400 and instead charter an 8-seater turboprop from Zest Air. Well, that didn't last too long either (for reasons that management of Boracay didn't specify) so Ongpin recently went on e-mail to the club's members saying that, since there was too much trouble involved in chartering a large aircraft ... there'll just buy their own.

So, you said correctly: Boboy will buy its own Inspiration in the form of a Swift Aerospace 2000 seater 4L, which is being operated by a Scottish carrier. According to Ongpin, the new aircraft will be able to carry 10 passengers at a time with a flying time of only 15 minutes from Manila. A total of 120 passengers a day on five trips combined with their existing Cessna will be available soon.

Pending the arrival of the latter sometime by the end of November, Ongpin is making available the company's 30-y-o Diamond 50-seater 90-ft-in—to fly Subcon Club members to and from Manila. Dascha L. Lucas

Telecom awards

HD IS providing even one of the most challenging periods in the corporate life of Globe Telecom Inc., so maybe there's why corporate president and CEO Ernest Cu was listed as a finalist to be named CEO of the Year at the upcoming World Communications Awards.

Cu is one of four finalists for the prestigious award out of the 30 shortlisted CEOs from around the world. Other fellow finalists include the CEOs of Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Co., France Telecom Orange, Verizon Communications and Vodafone.

The Wits of CEO of the Year is awarded based on a poll conducted among readers of trade publications Total Telecom. According to officials at the Ayala-controlled firm, Cu has been "the driving force behind Globe Telecom's continued success in delivering record-setting revenue top line for the first quarter of 2012 and the seventh consecutive quarter of double-digit growth over the same quarter last year."

Cu was also recently named CEO of the Year by business research and consulting firm Frost & Sullivan in its 2012 Asia Pacific ICT Awards ceremony, while Globe Telecom was named by Frost & Sullivan Philippines Telecom Service Provider and Broadband Access Provider of the year.

Meanwhile, Globe's biggest rival, Smart Communications Inc., also has some bragging rights at the same awards as it has been named a finalist in the "best operator in a developing market" category.

Smart is also a finalist in the "social contribution award" category and the "green award category."

Winners of the World Communication Awards 2012 will be announced in London on Nov. 13 and, from the looks of it, there will be enough bragging rights for everyone. Aaron L. Gonzales

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E-games operations boost PhilWeb earnings

By Dustin L. Lucas

PUBLICLY listed PhilWeb Corp. reported a robust increase in earnings for the first nine months of 2012 on the back of solid revenue rising results from its e-Games sales nationwide.

In a statement, the gaming firm with operations around the region, said its net income during the January-to-September period increased by 24 percent to P681 million from the same period last year.

"The performance was driven by excellent results from the company's operations, primarily in the e-Games sales of PEGS that is operated by its joint-venture[d] Philippine Interactive and Gaming Corp.," company president Bonnie Hobbs said.

The listed growth was delivered by PhilWeb's Asia-Pacific subsidiary, which operates scratch card businesses in Cambodia and Timor Leste and a lottery-Centre in Macau.

The Asia-Pacific region contributes 8 percent of total revenues, which drove the firm's consolidated total revenue to P1.06 billion, or 16-percent higher than a year ago.

"We continue to focus on growing our businesses in Asia-Pacific and also see new foray into building gaming businesses both for PEGS and for nonadult gaming businesses in the region," Hobbs said. "So we intend rather than just, we believe that Asia Pacific will be the driver of revenue growth for PhilWeb in the years to come."

PhilWeb Asia-Pacific president Mike Grandinetti said the company has "just received approval from the government of Timor Leste to begin the construction of a new electronic gaming café in that country."

BUSINESS

Filipino business confidence rises amid global volatility

A sharp decline in business confidence in many rapidly growing economies is raising a warning flag that global business may face continued volatility in the years months to come, but the Philippines is bucking the trend with confidence levels climbing 11 points in the Regus Business Confidence Index (from 126 to 140) since April this year.

Business confidence in some of the world's leading growth economies has dropped significantly over the last six months. Despite the mild, levels of business confidence in rapidly growing economies still remained well ahead of levels in mature economies...yet this setback should act as a warning flag for businesses across the world to stay nimble and expect further volatility before a general global upturn, according to the latest Regus Business Confidence Index Index (BCI) based on the views of more than 24,000 senior business people from 92 countries.

Confidence among small businesses is particular hit-flattered by both current and developing economies and plots the respondent risk-of-small and medium-sized enterprises to an engine of growth and provider of jobs, this finding was of particular concern. Access to affordable credit and cash flow management were among their biggest concerns, highlighting the need for flexible, pay-as-you-go business services allowing businesses to remain flexible and agile.

Among the key findings and statistics of the survey included the following:

- Global confidence levels have shown little change compared to six months ago, down 2 percentage points to 135 since April 2012.
- The proportion of Filipino companies expecting revenue to increase rose from 56 percent to April 2012 to 67 percent, while profits stagnated slightly from 50 percent to 49 percent.
- Three-quarters (75 percent) of Filipino respondents reported that they were satisfied with their government's support strategies for business.
- The major challenges to small businesses and startups are cashflow (48 percent), rules (39 percent), cost of marketing and promotion (36 percent).

Respondents also highlighted key investments by governments to introduce that would substantially help small businesses and start-ups. These are tax exemptions (62 percent), infrastructure (55 percent) and low interest loans (52 percent).

"It's clear that there's been a significant increase in business confidence, accompanied by significant falls in some rapidly developing economies since our last BCI report in April," said Regus, CEO for Asia Pilipinas Jack "The suggestion that slowing trade with Europe and Western economies, combined with a host of national factors, is taking its toll. If there is one good news, it's that globally the perception of companies expecting revenue growth is quite wide-profits increased slightly."

Jack said: "We were particularly struck by the lack of any improvement among entrepreneurs and small businesses. In order to improve their own situation, respondents identified affordable and flexible business services as a priority, especially for overheads such as workspace, administrative support and sales/marketing.

Rudyfer pointed of respondents for in vision expected that one of the major burdens during the downturn for businesses inflexible property leases. Flexible services allow businesses to be more agile and this up cash for investment without relying on credit at a time when it is so difficult to secure."

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Power Situation Outlook
for Monday, 5 November 2012

	Low	Reserve	Minimum
Luzon Reserve (MW)	8,384	1,809	1,834
Visayas Peak (MW)	7,027	1,429	1,226
Visayas Reserve (MW)	1,257	378	-202

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BUSINESS

Peso big gainer against greenback as of October

PH currency rose by 6.1%, closing at 41.18 as of end-Oct

By Michelle V. Abanes

THE PESO further appreciated against the US dollar in October, thus posting one of the biggest gains against the greenback among key Asian currencies in the first 10 months.

Market data showed that the peso rose by 0.1 percent against the dollar at the end of the first 10 months, lower than the 4.9 percent registered at the end of September.

The peso closed at 41.19:$1 on the last trading day of October, from 41.75 on the last trading day of September.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist for Banco de Oro, said the continued appreciation of the peso against the dollar made it one of the strongest among major Asian currencies.

The rise of the peso is attributed partly to the Philippine economy's growth so far this year—at 6.1 percent in the first semester from a year ago—that helped gain the favorable sentiment of the international financial community.

Citing the country's growth story amid the prolonged recession in the euro zone, Moody's Investors Service upgraded its credit rating for the Philippines to just one notch below investment grade.

Ravelas said the peso, which closed at 43.04:$1 on the last trading day of 2011, is expected to rely mostly in the 41.6:$-to-$1 territory throughout the rest of the year due to the favorable market sentiment on the Philippine economy.

He said, however, that there was a chance that the peso would decline a bit in the coming weeks and months as concerns over the "fiscal cliff" in the United States make foreign exchange markets jittery.

The so-called fiscal cliff refers to the beginning of spending cuts in observance of the debt ceiling and various fiscal reforms provided under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Some of the reforms include the end of certain tax breaks for businesses and imposition of new taxes related to the health care law of the Obama administration.

Although spending cuts and tax reforms are meant to put the US fiscal house in order, economists said there could take a toll on growth of the US economy which is still struggling to choke off the debilitating effects of the global economic downturn.

"When there are unsure investments, such as the US fiscal cliff, investors tend to go for the safe haven, and for many of them, the US dollar is still the most liquid currency," Ravelas told the Inquirer.

He added that the peso was likely to end this year at 41.70 against the US dollar.

Ravelas also said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas may be prompted to implement additional measures to prevent an even steeper rise of the peso should appreciation pressure become more pronounced.

He said the BSP may have to intervene at some point considering the adverse effects of a strong currency on the income of exporters and of households dependent on remittances.

Last Oct. 25, the BSP cut its key policy rates for the fourth time this year by another 25 basis points, bringing them to new record lows of 3.5 percent for overnight borrowing and 5.5 percent for overnight lending.

The cut to the key policy rates, which influence commercial interest rates, is expected to cause a reduction in yields from peso bonds as well.

A decline in yields is seen to temper demand for such assets, and thus new dollar inflows and slow down the appreciation of the peso.

Forum wants to start Recto Bank drilling

By Amy R. Remo

FORUM Energy Plc is hoping to find, by next to March next year to planned $75-million oil and gas drilling program at the contentious per highly prospective Recto Bank.

Forum's drilling program has been adversely affected by the territorial dispute involving China and Taiwan.

Philex Petroleum Corp. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said Forum wanted to start drilling nine of the (are appraisal wells by March or April 2013, as scheduled under its commitment program with the government for Service Contract 72.

Philex owns 64.40 percent of the (issued capital of Forum Energy.

Forum Energy holds a 70-percent interest in the SC72 license, while the remaining 30 percent is held by Mitsui Oil Exploration Energy.

Pangilinan, however, admitted that the progress might be delayed anew, not because of any incidents outside(ing territorial disputes, but due to a delay in the issuance of the permits for the holding of a geotechnical survey in the area.

"We were advised to have a geotechnical drilling vessel to do survey in 10 days of (survey) work in late October. This is to determine the stability of the soil," Pangilinan said.

"We advised the Department of Energy, in a letter on July 6, that we intend to have this geotechnical ship out there because it required a 90-day notice. We've written them again on Oct. 9 and told them that we did not receive a letter to proceed. Obviously, we cannot proceed without their permission," he added.

According to Pangilinan, the group has yet to assess whether they would need to seek an extension from the DOE to meet all their commitments under the first exploration subphase, which is supposed to end by August next year.

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Gov't paid ₱580B in debts in 1st 9 mos

Principal accounts for ₱334.5 billion

By Reuterd W. Dannugs

THE GOVERNMENT spent P579.8 billion in the nine months to September to pay principal of its debts, according to the Bureau of Treasury.

The amount was 3 percent less than the P597.8 billion paid in the same period last year.

From January to September, the government settled P334.5 billion in principal, including P267.8 billion in domestic debt and P66.8 billion in foreign loans.

The total principal payment in these nine months was 11 percent lower than the P375.1 billion paid a year ago.

The government also paid P245.2 billion in interest, covering P153.1 billion charged on domestic debt and P91.2 billion on foreign borrowings.

Total interest payment for the period was 10 percent higher than the P222.4 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said in early October that spending on interest payments were up because the BTr issued a bigger amount of fixed rate treasury bills and retail bonds.

Fixed-rate Abad said, the January to September interest payments were (19.4 billion or 5.4 percent less than the programmed level.

BTr data showed that the biggest contribution to new debt this year were still the issuance retail treasury bonds, which amounted to P179.0 billion; global bonds, P66 billion and regular domestic bonds, P364 billion.

The government financed some P520 billion in five-year treasury bonds, P343.4 billion in seven-year, P90.3 billion in 10-year, P87.9 billion in 20-year and P14.4 billion in 25-year bonds.

In September alone, the government paid P68.7 billion in financial obligations, including P52.4 billion in domestic debt and P16.4 billion in foreign loans.

The month's total was 6 percent lower than the P72.4 billion paid a year ago.

As for principal payments, the Treasury shelled out P44.6 billion in September, lower by 4 percent than the previous P46.6 billion.

Interest payments for the month reached P14.1 billion or 7 percent less than the P15.1 billion settled in the same month last year.

Korean firms keen on moving to PH

By Ben T. Chabrales

SOUTH Korean companies operating in industrial estates in Laguna, Batangas and Cavite are "seriously thinking" of moving to the Philippines, according to the Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines (KCCP).

KCCP president Edward Eun-Gap Chang said the Philippines was strategically located in the Asean, a booming market and an especially attractive country for Korean companies due to the trade agreement (FTA). The Philippines' young and English speaking workforce gives the country an edge as well, he said.

However, Eun-Gap said decision making in these companies were being delayed by issues on foreign ownership and other restrictions imposed in the Philippines.

A company that has to make a big investment in building a big factory, for example, may think twice since the land cannot be acquired and the property would have to be turned over to someone else eventually, he said.

Korean companies keen on expanding to the Philippines are engaged in the production of semiconductors and displays, automotive assembly, steel manufacturing and shipbuilding, according to the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency.

There are existing Korean manufacturers in the Philippines, even in cutting-edge such as high-value garments, Eun-Gap said.

Power, airports and other infrastructure projects, renewable energy and agriculture are attractive avenues for prospective Korean investors, KCCP said earlier.

Korea Electric Power Corp. and the SK Group are particularly interested in power projects, Eun-Gap said. The said Hanjin, Daewoo, SS, Samsung and car maker Hyundai were keen on expanding their operations in the Philippines, he said.

As for the Philippines, it is expanding its economic zones (economic) to accommodate more businesses, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) Director General Lilia B. de Lima told reporters.

The Philippines has at present 271 operating economic zones. "The developers are developing more economic zones. We won't run out of new zones," she said.

Peza hopes to attract more Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese and European investors to locate in the economic zones.

"They have the technology, they have the capital, but they don't have human capital and we can offer the best human capital," De Lima said.

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Globe offers low IDD rates

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GLOBE Telecom's prepaid subscribers can now enjoy cheaper international long-distance call rates, with the new promo launched by the Ayala-led firm.

The telecom company recently launched its new GoIDD promo exclusively for Globe prepaid users calling the United States, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. The IDD (international direct dialing) offer brings long-distance call rates to as low as P3.50 per minute.

Globe is the latest addition to Globe's roster of international services that offer the most competitive per-minute call rates, Globe Prepaid head Ed Glenn said.

"With Globe GoIDD, connections between families and friends remain solid despite the distance. Staying connected is now a (Globe) with Globe GoIDD, making international calling easy and affordable," he said.

To call using GoIDD, dial the standard IDD dialing sequence, which is 00 + country code + area code + phone number for a landline number, and 00 + country code + mobile number for a mobile number. Upon successful registration, users will be provided with 120 call minutes, valid for one-time month. A P1 maintaining balance is required. The promo will run on Feb. 28, 2013.

Globe said its new IDD offer was "superior" to similar products being marketed by rivals that charge P1.50 per minute when calling long distance.

During the first quarter 2012, total international long distance calls made through Globe grew by 18 percent year-on-year, with outbound traffic growing by 13 percent to some 82.8 minutes.

Prepaid subscribers make up the bulk of Globe Telecom's user base. As of the first half of 2012, Globe prepaid subscribers stood at 16.1 million, 9 percent up from 14.7 million a year ago.

Firm backs DA growth goal

AGRICULTURE products and technology distributor Ilaw Calata Corp. said it was supporting the Department of Agriculture's bid to raise the country's food production by as much as 3.5 percent to 5 percent next year.

Calata Corp. chair and CEO Joseph Calata said he believed the DA goal was "reasonable and attainable" and called for "the all-out support of private sector players in the agricultural industry".

The DA's growth goal for 2012 was set at 4.1 percent. It was based on the expected increase in the output of the crops subsector.

Calata said the growth targets "underscore the seriousness of the government's bid for greater food sufficiency while further uplifting the farming sector".

Calata, in a statement, said it was supporting the DA target with its own expansion program. "With more Calata outlets in areas close to food producers, the crops subsector can gain better access to agricultural technology and farm inputs," Calata said.

"This is crucial because technologies and inputs have much impact on farm productivity" he explained.

The conglomerate earlier said it was increasing the number of its outlets from 120 to 150 during the period, as guaranteed by its recent listing in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Calata Corp. distributes agrochemicals, fertilizers, veterinary products, seeds and feeds from leading manufacturers in the country and abroad.

It earlier inaugurated its sod-sowing facilities to support DA's bid to encourage farmers to use fertilizers and chemicals prudently.

Meralco to start testing prepaid electricity scheme

By Amy R. Borja

MANILA Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, is set to roll out before the end of the year pilot projects that will determine the commercial viability of the prepaid retail electricity scheme and electric vehicle charging stations.

Alfredo S. Panlilio, senior vice president and head of customer retail services of Meralco, said the distribution utility would start in December the technical pilot project for prepaid electricity in about 60 households in Angono, Rizal.

Meralco, according to Panlilio, signed last month an agreement for the advanced metering infrastructure integrated solution (AMIDI) project with GE, which would serve as the system integrator. The GE solution will allow Meralco to implement the prepaid electricity scheme, which is primarily aimed at helping power consumers effectively manage their energy use and expenses.

The technical pilot testing will pave the way for a wider-scale commercial pilot that will involve some 40,000 households by the middle of next year, Panlilio said.

Panlilio said Meralco was expecting to be able to determine the viability of the prepaid electricity scheme by the second half of the year with the commercial pilot test.

The pilot activities are meant to test the viability of the existing prepaid platform, the prepaid meters and the various vending solutions that may be deployed. Pilot testing will also determine if the prepaid retail electricity scheme would provide lasting benefits to Meralco customers.

The prepaid retail electricity service will allow consumers to control their electricity use and expenses, as this will enable them to monitor their electricity consumption in real time. Their home systems could warn them if and when their load is causing zero to avoid automatic disconnection.

In the meantime, Panlilio said Meralco was also ready to start the pilot implementation of a charging system for electric vehicles in Mandaluyong before the end of the year, after completing studies that were started in September. Two more electric vehicle charging stations are scheduled to be put up in Quezon and Caloocan by next year.

These three charging stations are meant to help Meralco determine the viability of the business design and models to be used and its pricing scheme. A partnership with the Department of Science and Technology was likewise formed for the development of standards for the charging stations.

Earlier this year, Meralco disclosed that aside from providing charging stations, it was likewise looking at the the possibility of manufacturing electric vehicles.

SMX
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2012

Philconstruct
November 7-10

- HVAC/R Philippines
- Mining Asia
- Technofairs (Technical Seminar) Series
- 9th Estilo de Vida (Interior Design) Competition

Livingwater Systems Inc. 8th Anniversary
November 12

Man's Circle Inc. Meeting
November 12

Upstream Energy 2012
November 14-16

Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers (IIEE) 31st Annual Convention and Expo
November 14-17

The 3rd Philippine International Conference on Out-of-Home Media Outdoor Advertising Philippines 2012
November 15-17

Philsaderbil Launch
November 16

Village People Concert
November 17

Bread of Life Ministries, Inc. 30th Anniversary
November 18

Victory Christian Fellowship of Imus One Five 15th Anniversary
November 18

AIEP.M. - Multimedia Arts College Night and Beauty Pageant
November 21

Kenyana Conference 2012: Champions Arise!
November 24-25

Manila Auto Salon
November 29-December 2

Defense and Sporting Arms Show
November 29-December 2

Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Convention
November 30 - December 2

Alex Para Sa Bata
The Manila Conference Battling Bad Behaviors Enabling Adult to Respond Positively and Effectively to Children
December 5-7

AWAY 09' International Seminar
December 7

Toy Kingdom Holiday Toy Sale
December 7-9

Fashion Outlet Sale
December 7-8

Home Mark Inc. Christmas Party
December 18-19

Classifieds

Makati court asked to cite PCSO officials for contempt

By Dazlin L. Lucas

THE LOTTO operator holding the exclusive rights for Luzon operations has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to cite for contempt officials of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for defying an order barring the agency from allowing another firm to encroach in its geographic franchise.

Philippine Gaming and Management Corporation (PGMC), a local unit of Malaysia's Berjaya Group, claimed that PCSO officials led by its chair, Margarita Juico, ignored the court order and to effect retained the exclusive equipment lease agreement between PCSO and PGMC.

The injunction stemmed from PGMC's petition in June that questioned PCSO's decision to allow Pacific Online Systems Corp. — which includes territory in Visayas and Mindanao — to supposedly install and lease lottery equipment in Luzon without bidding and in violation of PGMC's exclusivity contract.

PGMC's contract with PCSO expires in August 2013, while the exclusivity contract between PCSO and Pacific Online for Visayas and Mindanao ends in March 2013.

Contacted for comment on the issue, PCSO general manager Ferdinand Rojas told the business that he cannot "to now (be subject matter in) litigation."

"PCSO is confident of its position, which will be advantageous to and in the best interests of the public, the agency and the government," he said.

In a resolution dated July 12, 2012, the Makati court confirmed PGMC's exclusive arrangement, and granted its application for preliminary injunction. A writ was issued on Sept. 5, ordering PCSO not to engage the services of Pacific Online in Luzon.

"However, despite being served with copies of the writ, respondents deliberately and arrogantly defied the same by continuing to lease and operate lottery equipment in Luzon other than not supplied by PGMC," PGMC said in its petition.

Lottery tickets that were different from those issued by PGMC's lottery equipment were evidence that other equipment were being used, it added.

Top consumer product categories revealed

BUSINESS

Special defects

THE CONFIRMATION of Ramon Paje, the boss at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, who has already attained celebrity status because of the avowal "bypasses" by the Insensitive Commission on Appointments, is generating more opposition.

Lately, for instance, Antonio Cerilles, the DENR secretary during the time of the now-named Bund...Metro Bund...and now the governor of Zamboanga del Sur, came forward to oppose Paje's confirmation because of "incompetence."

From what I have gathered, Cerilles already informally wrote Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, simply known as JPE, who is also Cil chair. Cerilles even underscored the word "incompetence," aside from putting it in bold capital letters.

Mind has it that Cerilles came to Mitos Magsaysay to personally talk to the CA members regarding his strong opposition to Paje's confirmation.

As we all know, Cerilles is also a former Zamboanga governor.

Actually, Cerilles is barging in the controversy over the permit issued by the DENR to a mining company called Lepanto Philippines, which mysteriously secured a "special" permit in the mineral-rich town of Bagong in Zamboanga del Sur.

The permit, even from this impressive-sounding name "special ore extraction permit," or SOER which the DENR issued during the new administration of Gloriamita, under DENR boss Lito Atienza, the former mayor of Manila.

Here is the thing: the permit called SOEP does not appear, even just to pass by, in any existing law in the country.

Thus, some opponents to DENR sense to have granted Lepto Philippines a big favor, and if you believe the story of Cerilles, Paje actually was part of it, other because of "incompetence" or other undisclosed reasons.

On the Lepto Philippines issue, Cerilles ironically backed up also another Cabinet member, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who destroyed Paje's reasons for his supporting the strange SOER.

Mind has it, by the way, that Paje was never part of the original team of our leader Benigno Simeon, aka BS. It is said that Paje rose from the ranks in the DENR, having hit the number lots only during the later administration of Gloriamita, particularly during the successive terms of two well-known loyalists of Gloriamita, namely Senator DENR cabinet Atienza and Michael Defensor.

Paje then worked his way into the Aquino (Pnoy BS) administration, slipping himself with the "former" group, with the help of his known ties with a politically active religious group.

Anyway, the mining company Lepto Philippines claimed that it enjoyed the support of indigenous people in Zamboanga del Sur.

It was the law, according to media reports, that Paje also cared to defend the DENR's issuance of the special permit, complete with all the PR special efforts.

But then Cerilles claimed in his letter to JPE that indigenous groups had nothing to do with the mining company.

In fact, only one individual, named Manuel Go, who is based in Cebu and not even in Zamboanga del Sur, controls 99 percent of the company.

And so the well-oiled PR machinery of Paje subsequently changed its tune and laid the blame squarely on his former boss, saying that the DENR issued the questionable permit during the time of Atienza.

Well and good—but Cerilles also revealed that for had informed Paje about the brewing tension in the mining communities in his province over the operations of Lepto Pipigrantes...not only once, but twice.

According to Cerilles, Paje was already the acting DENR secretary when Cerilles brought up the issue.

For whatever reason, Paje ignored the concerns aired by Cerilles on both occasions, which Cerilles noted should have given Paje enough time and reason to cancel the flashy issuance of the special permit.

Instead, Paje even defended it.

Also, when Antonio was DENR head, Paje held advantageous positions in the departments—for instance as Atienza's top adviser on mining.

So you mean to tell the guys down here in my barangay that Paje did not give his boss the correct advice on such a highly questionable act as investing a special permit for a mining company owned by a single individual who was even an outsider to the town?

It seems that Paje's spirited defense of Lepto Pipigrantes does not make him, ah, "unbothered" by the controversial special permit, as his PR machinery claims.

Look, boss, our beloved DENR chief even gave a circuitous explanation of the special permit, when in a letter in August last year he even asked the Department of Justice for an opinion on its legality.

He claimed then that the law did not prohibit the DENR secretary from issuing such a special permit as the SOEP. Sus, imora...too much ado about nothing!

But then DOJ head De Lima destroyed Paje's argument.

Here, according to De Lima, the law did not expressly prohibit the DENR chief from issuing the permit, but the DENR chief could only do so with the certification and evaluation of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, or the MGB, because the MGB director was in the best position to determine whether the applicant (i.e. Lepto Pipigrantes) followed all legal requirements.

According to De Lima, Lepto Pipigrantes failed to obtain the necessary permits to conduct mining activities in Bayog (Zamboanga del Sur) as required under the law.

You know—the special permit had specific defects after all. And so the DOJ said that the permit was "invalid."

Yet his PR machinery said that Paje had no involvement whatsoever in the grant of the special favor in the company. Ta be it.

It is just that Paje was, ah, sooo frantically obedient in his defense of the company, which, by the way, has been raking millions upon millions of pesos.

It makes us wonder why he could not just simply cancel the permit.

Recently, the DENR announced its "accomplishments" under Paje, such as the removal of allegedly corrupt employees or the grade of positive "1" that the department obtained in the SWS survey. Come on—positive "1"?

The PR campaign perhaps aimed to remember the better seat by a group of DENR employees—who refused to reveal their names—to CA members such as Senator Grace Guerrero, revealing the land deals of the DENR under Paje.

These employees claimed that these deals were not exactly advantageous to the government.

These supposed deals involved the DENR property at Fort Bonifacio, which was reportedly pegged at P12,000 per square meter as against the assessed value of P60,000 per, and the award of 25-year leases to Bonanga Island (Palawan), which has been declared a conservation area.

Now, the DENR employees claim also supposedly denied that it had filed a complaint with the Ombudsman against Paje, saying that the latter board had the sole authority to issue statements.

How is the thing: the supposed press statement was the anonymously came from the Public Affairs Office of the DENR, acting as the PR arm of Paje.

How could our leader BS stomach this guy?

Solar TV launches new channel

SOLAR Television Network has launched its new channel—Solar News Channel.

The new channel, which formally aired as "SOLO," is a news information channel that aims to appeal to Filipino people who want to be informed and inspired.

Local news programs such as Solar Newsbreak News, Solar Daybreak and Solar Tonight News will remain on the channel to keep viewers abreast of the latest and most important news of the day.

Jiny Magsaysay, Pia Hontiveros, Nancy Irlanda, Gaite Celdran and Mel Rodriguez will be the anchors of the Solar News Channel.

The news channel aims to provide "news you can use," bringing back-to-basics broadcast news but using the latest technology to media.

Solar News Channel believes that every Filipino deserves to be informed and entertained, inspired.

Aside from the newscasts, Solar News Channel will also air local and international news and lifestyle programs like What I See, The Talk, Top Gear, Undercover Boss, Inside Edition, Today Show, Anderson Live, NBC Nightly News and 60 Minutes.

Solar News Channel airs on Sky Ch. 16, Global Destiny Ch. 20, Cignal Ch. 21, Cablink Ch. 12, and on free television SOLTV Ch. 21.

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bawal III

BUSINESS

BSP: Banks post higher profits in first half

By Michelle V. Nuevo

LIBERAL rural and commercial banks in the country registered higher profits in the first semester, as growth of the economy spurred an increase in demand for loans and other banking products and services.

Monetary officials said the double-digit pace of income growth enjoyed by large banks would also boost their capacities to lend more to consumers and businesses.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the combined net incomes of universal and commercial banks totaled P135.15 billion in the first half, up nearly 29 percent from the P46.49 billion reported in the same period last year.

Banks generated P90.07 billion in net interest income, which is revenue out of interests charged on loans less expenses for the payment of interests on deposits. This amount was up by 3.2 percent from the P95.99 billion seen in the same period a year ago.

Non-interest income—which is derived from non-banking services, such as underwriting and dealership of securities, bills payments, wealth management, etc.—amounted to P64.41 billion. This was up by 13.4 percent from P56.8 billion.

Banks posted a significant increase in profit despite the decline in interest rates to historic lows this year.

Industry members said the low-interest rate environment would dampen the interest income of banks. But the institutions are now maximizing revenue sources to counter that dampening effect.

Amelito Sheriden G. Mas, president of Bank of the Philippine Islands, earlier said banks would have to compensate for low interest rates by increasing volume of transactions and aggressively seeking more clients.

Monetarists said the adverse effect of low interest rates on income per loan transaction could be offset by an increase in demand for loans.

A spike in loan demand is a consequence of cheaper cost of borrowings, he added.

The BSP cut the key policy rates for the fourth time this year.

The key interest rates, which influence commercial interest rates, were trimmed to historic lows.

Last month's cuts cut brought the overnight borrowing and lending rates of the BSP to 3.5 and 5.5 percent, respectively.

With peace at hand, Mindanao seen to grow faster than Luzon

By Jeu G. Rea

MINDANAO'S economy may grow faster than that of Luzon once the government works out the peace and order problem on the island, a Cabinet official said.

"If we succeed in solving this problem, Mindanao will boom. It will grow faster than Luzon," said Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, noting that the peace and order problem is hampering development in Mindanao.

President Aquino recently signed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), moving a step closer to a permanent peace deal.

Data from the National Statistical Coordination Board showed that Mindanao's economy grew 5.2 percent in 2011, while Luzon (excluding Metro Manila), Metro Manila and Visayas posted economic growth rates of 3.9 percent, 3.5 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively.

Also, Mindanao accounted for 14.1 percent of the country's total domestic output while Luzon (excluding Metro Manila) contributed 37.3 percent.

Metro Manila accounted for 35.7 percent of the country's output while Visayas contributed 12.8 percent.

Potential growth sectors in the region include agriculture and tourism, backed by the country's fertile land and rich culture. Balisacan said industries in the area can also be tapped to expand agri-based production.

A Philippine Development Forum in Davao is planned for January to discuss concrete terms for plan for Mindanao.

"We will make sure this time it will really bring development," said Balisacan, stressing the need to coordinate efforts of the government and its line agencies.

San Miguel unit receives ERC nod to supply electricity in Cagayan

By Amy R. Remo

SAN MIGUEL Energy Corp. secured the regulator's approval to supply power to an electric cooperative, helping ensure for the moment adequate and affordable supply in the Cagayan province.

In an order, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) granted a provisional approval for the interim power supply agreement between Cagayan I Electric Cooperative Inc. (Cagelco I) and San Miguel Energy.

The ERC noted that an initial evaluation of the application showed that the agreement would "redound to the benefit of Cagelco I's consumers in terms of continuous, reliable, efficient and affordable power, or supply as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira)."

The office of San Miguel Energy was expected to be the "most compliant," having met the power supply requirements of Cagelco II up to Dec. 23, 2012, during which the interim agreement between the two parties will expire.

Also, a resolution showed that the intended generation rates of Cagelco I, if it were to include the supply from San Miguel Energy, would result to a reduction of rates by around 27 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

San Miguel Energy will be providing power to Cagelco from the 1,246-megawatt bunker coal-fired power plant in Pagbilao.

The power then is currently the independent power producer administrator (Ipsa) of the fuel facility which means that it is responsible for the management of the power plant's contracted capacities and fuel supply.

Cagelco I needs the additional supply from San Miguel Energy while it waits for GNPower Ltd. Co. to start operating its 600-MW coal-fired power plant in Mariveles, Bataan.

According to the ERC order, Cagelco I has an existing 12-year power supply agreement with GNPower that was already approved back in October 2007. GNPower was supposed to start operations last January, but unforeseen delays forced the power company to seek commercial operations at a later date.

Smart completes fiber link-up of Metro Manila cell sites

Wireless leader Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) has officially completed linking its Metro Manila cell sites via fiber optic cable.

According to PLDT Smart Technology Group Head Rolando G. Peña, the telco has connected 100% of cell sites in NCR to the PLDT group's fiber infrastructure as part of its Fiber to the Logo (FTL) project.

"With 100% of our Metro Manila network on fiber, Smart can further improve its range of wireless services and technologies such as LTE, HSPA+ 3G, and even 2G," said Peña.

Unlike traditional copper wiring and microwave radios which transmit data through electrical and radio signals, fiber optics uses pulses of light generated through thin strands of glass.

This "optical technology allows for efficient, high-speed transmission of data even over long distances.

"Although Smart is a wireless services provider, fiber is crucial to our products and services," said Peña. "Fiber allows our cell sites to send data faster from the cross network to your devices. From broadcasting to an even better mobile experience," he said.

The latest innovation explains that unlike in the early years of mobile technology, modern smartphones and tablets have now become "rich content-centric devices."

Apart from being able to handle high definition content, rich communication devices can store more dat information in the cloud. They are also capable of talking intelligently and independently with other devices as demonstrated by push (email) and location (map) services.

"Because hardware and content have become very sophisticated, older transport technologies such as copper and microwave just won't cut it anymore," said Peña. "Fiber is the answer and we are confident to invest in the technology so that we could address the needs of the market," he said.

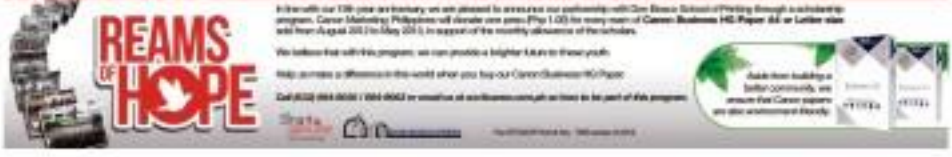
Co-located with cell site stations are located up through small loops in order to ensure full reliability. In the event that there is fiber cable cut on one side, a base station or cell site can still work via protection path, ensuring seamless upload service.

The PLDT group in the Philippines' pioneer in fiber optic technology. In the 1980s, it became first telco to introduce and deploy fiber optic cables (FOCs). Smart embarked on active "fiberization" initiatives through FTL projects which began in 2005. It has gone through various expansion programs since then, completing its phases over a period of seven years.

Since then, it has built the country's most extensive fiber optic network in the country which comprises of close to 40,000-km. of FOCs enough to circle the Earth's equator one and a half times.

"Our fiber optic network gives us a clear cost strategic advantage that cannot be matched by our competitors," he added.

Photo shows PLDT and Smart Technology Group Head Rolando G. Peña testing an ordinary glass pipe to illustrate how fiber uses pulses of light to connect through thin wires of glass to transmit data. Partly hidden is PLDT Vice President for Network Planning and Engineering Cimara Sanchez.



BUSINESS Monday

Follow up, follow up and be willing to sue

A primer on how to collect overdue accounts

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

UNCOLLECTED payment from customers and clients can be a big headache for small businessmen who typically have limited capital resources.

"Halos isang pro[blem] na lang namin sa [buhay] ang mga ganyan," sa [sabi] ng isa sa kanila.

Thus, delays in collection can endanger cash flow, slow down operations, and threaten the long-term viability of a business.

How do small entrepreneurs contend with slow collection?

Cash policy

Grace Gold Enterprises, owned by Jude Pimentel, could attest to the difficulties of dealing with customers on cash basis.

"At first, we were also one of the few suppliers given cash terms in order to [illegible] percent discount," according to Chito and Jude Medrano, the mom-and-pop tandem behind the company.

But other retail establishments who typically take time to pay, the couple no longer deal with them directly.

"We go through wholesalers—some of them Indians, others Chinese from Binondo and Divisoria—who buy our jewelry from us in cash and in turn distribute them to retail stores."

Both Evangelista and Medrano did not accomplish the first oversight.

Aida recalls their early struggling days:

"We supplied retailers who gave us 60-day terms. However, due to inflation compelled sellers to wait for as long as 120 days to get paid."

Hilda takes revenge (and up, the couple usually had to leverage around for working capital.

In time, as demand for their products grew, they were able to bargain for increasingly better terms.

"We have technically done away with our collection problems," concludes Aida.

Greenpeak, for its part, had no market to lose. The only cash-in-bid accepted their products were roadside fruit stands. Eventually, large retailers took notice and approached the company, agreeing to be supplied on credit terms.

The lesson here seems to be: Offer a product (or service) so good the market cannot ignore it.

Other strategies

Some microentrepreneurs offer special discounts and free delivery to customers who pay cash on delivery.

This is the case of Uptread Company, an importer of food supplements from the US established locally. In effect, Uptread has immediately cash payments by giving as much as 15 percent discount plus door-to-door delivery.

Jerilyn Lourenco of Angelina's Bakeryette, Negros Occidental, distributes her bagguios, tocino, chorizo and other food products to consignees whose credibility has been proven.

To economize costs, the deals with a new, unknown customer on cash basis only. But to those who have earned her trust, she consigns up to P50,000 worth of goods. She makes it clear that to the third batch of goods delivered, the consignee is expected to have paid for the first two deliveries.

AmyHaing, a Boracay-based tailor-manufacturer, describes the credit-and-collection system he uses with his team of tailor-vendors: "I leave them six-seam tube-pads which I lend to vendors as residence they get them a supply of tubes from me. The vendors would get the tubes on credit and pay back the next morning when they get their fresh supply. Those who have their own pads have to pay in cash."

Danilo Cayta, owner of a tea-and-basket in Baguio City, has gone into the selling of pre-need plans for funeral services in cooperation with Provost Insurance Company. Obviously, pre-needs do away with collection problems as the price the service is awaited to be rendered.

When a customer Celia Pelayo[illegible] of Tibiaboots.com needs to collect past due receivables, she lets her husband call up. He can be very firm, while she herself tends to be sweeter.

However, with a big, established brand, the supplier does not have to be very much choosy. The reason: sales are assured. The client need she would put a note to up file, and since then I have been paid promptly."

Guidelines for effective collection

HERE, adapted from basic [illegible] resources, on online resources, our suggestions on what small businesses can do when faced with collection problems:

• Set policy and put it in writing. To avoid problems in the first place, establish ground rules for how payment must be made and stick to them. On the other hand, businesses made into closely-knitted teams of sole and payment options. Set guidelines as well for how to handle checks and credit cards. The terms of payment should be clearly spelled out in the agreement or sales summary. Some businessmen would ask the customer to initial the payment policy overleaf.

• Follow up, follow up, follow up. Usually, but not always, being persistent but tolerantly nice works. Make follow-up calls regularly, making it a point not to lose your cool.

• Evaluate the situation. You need to evaluate individual clients—their integrity, your previous or usual experience with them. It is possible to establish good ties to get undergoing unreasonably difficult times and not to be on our most shaky footing.

• Be willing to sue. When all else fails, you might take legal action. This will [illegible] usually a last resort. As one can point out, you have to stop trying to collect and charge it to experience. After all, there is such a thing as "bad debt" which all businesses should expect occasionally and be prepared to write off.

• The author handles the Media Development for Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation at Seedbed, a resource hub for micro, small and medium enterprises. For more [illegible] and grants in business activities, visit www.seedbed.ph.

Collaborating for competitive commerce

THE SOUTHERN Tagalog Agricultural Exposition & Rural Development Council (Satedec) is currently holding its 25th Regional Symposium on Research & Development Highlights concurrent with the 2nd Regional Techno-Gabay Summit.

These gatherings are an ideal opportunity for [illegible] to familiarize by exposing participants to new and innovative ways. There is, however, much that will needs to be done to realize the potential of these gatherings.

The organizers should see to speak during the opening ceremonies and before it a summary of what I said. I hope it makes clear what we in management and the business sector might add to the discussion.

Our government has given our science and technology researchers in the areas of agriculture, aquaculture and natural resources a threefold challenge every day of their lost efforts. The two co-equal challenges are, first, to help "stretch the [illegible] of knowledge" to our co-operator fields; and, the second, to help make life better for [illegible] by improving production and productivity, and by helping the Filipino diversify his products and services and make them more competitive not only in the Philippines but globally.

Last week we attended a panel discussion in the Manila Fall[illegible] at the SMX in the Mall of Asia that discussed the best in Philippine products for export. Members of the Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines (MAP) came to listen to a panel discussion which featured two New York-based professionals, Calvin Tan, an architect, and David Moss, a world famous designer and founder of LOC. They addressed the questions of creating an excellent product or service and what it takes to make a successful brand.

I Googled to get a few key technical points to the word, a "brand" is and what purpose it serves and there are what I got from: "Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brand) and About.Marketing.com (http://marketing.about.com/cs/brandbasics/a/whatisbranding.htm):

• "A brand is a name, term, design, symbol, or any other feature that identifies one seller's good or service as distinct from those of other sellers." and,

• "A strong brand is invaluable as the battle for consumers intensifies day by day. It's important to spend time investing in researching, defining, and building your brand. After all, your brand is the only real, tangible promise to your consumer. It's a foundational place in your marketing communication and one you do not want to be without."

A brand represents a promise to the person purchasing our product or service. To create that brand, that image, the two panelists said that, and I hope I got them right:

1. Whatever you offer must first be pertinent to the market, that is, it is useful, valuable, to the market;

2. The product or service must represent a quality the market wishes while being distinctly identified with you, in this case, a distinctive "Philippineness";

3. The product or service must be delivered with a consistency, that with every delivery the buyer can expect the same quality; and,

4. The product must make a difference in the lives of those who avail of the service or use the product.

For our economy to grow, progress and prosper, Filipinos who make a living from or build businesses on agriculture, aquafarms and natural resources exploitation, must create products and services pertinent to our and the global markets' evolving needs. We must offer something distinctly Filipino and yet be seen a global product or service and these must be delivered consistently while ensuring that they make people's lives better.

In the few years that I have been associated with the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research & Development (PCAARRD) of the Department of Science and Technology, I have become keenly aware of our government's desire through PCAARRD to help our industry improve their lives in the same time. I have also become painfully aware that hard work, desire and sincerity are not enough.

Our people have worked hard to produce a range of products and services. Our scientists and technologists have been hard at work helping them improve those products and many of the processes involved in producing the products and making the services available. Government has tried its part in place a number of enabling and facilitating mechanisms. Yet, much of our work have not moved as much as we want and the improvements in their lives are hampered for more. What has been missing?

You were up as we were able to identify what we think is the missing element to these collaborations. We need not just the agricultural, aquaculture and natural resources producers. We need the post harvest processors, the transportation people, the distributors and the retailers.

We need government at all levels of the market value chain. The national level may establish policy and provide the legal framework, but the real test of government resolve to help business and our people is at the local level, in the municipalities and provinces. Constantly. Effectively and yet be seen a global product or service and these must be delivered consistently while ensuring that they make people's lives better.

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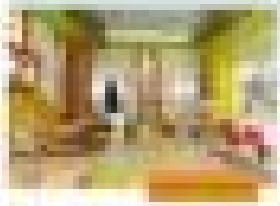

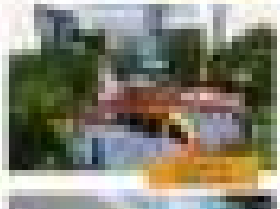

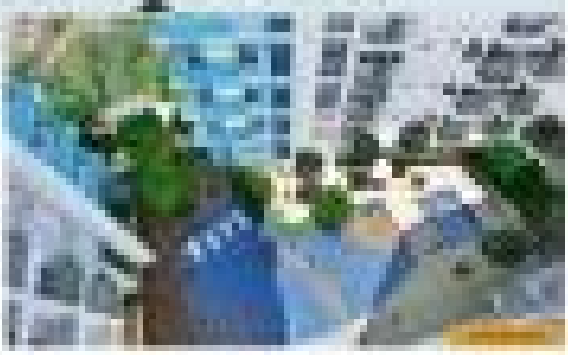

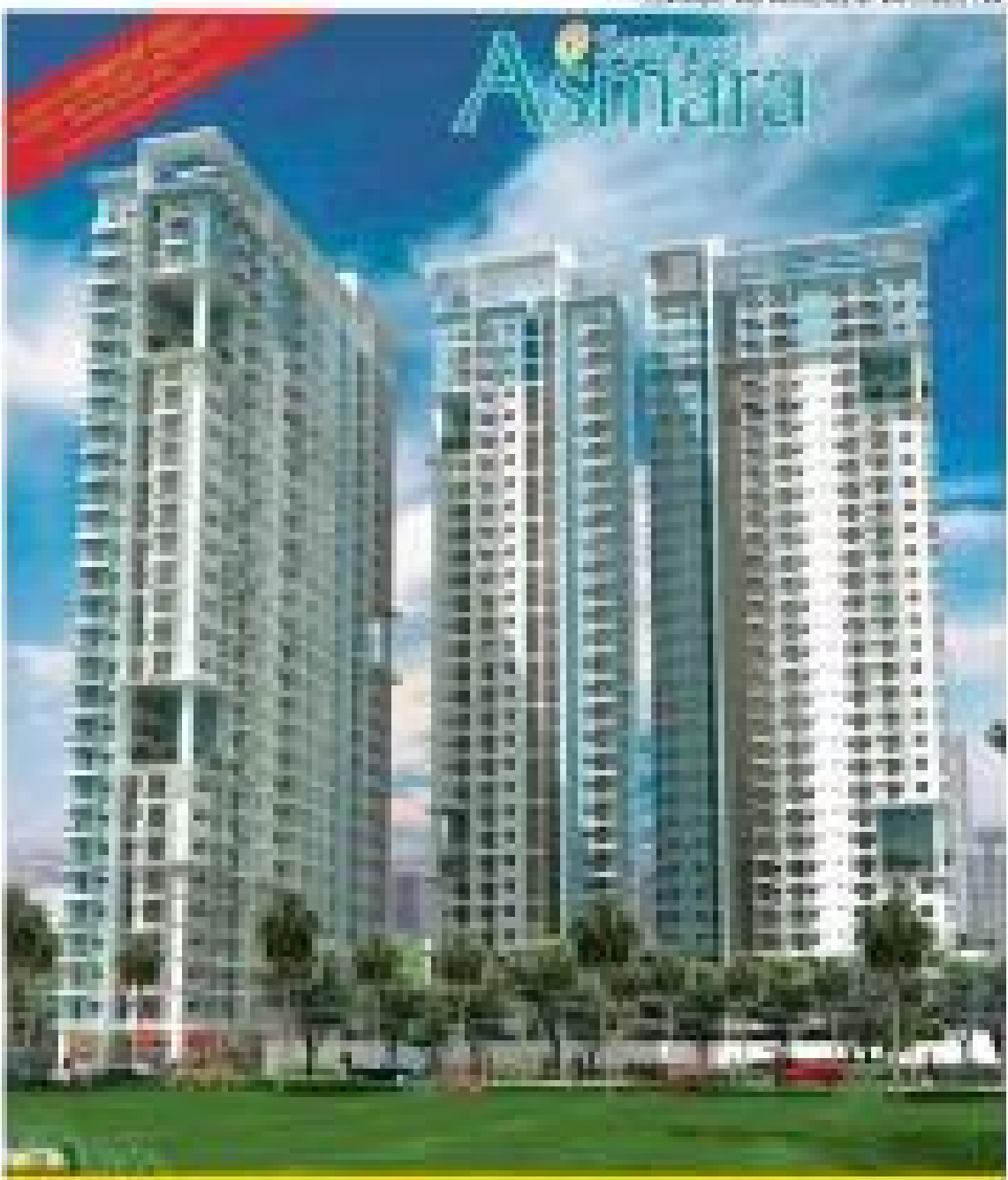

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- Age: Not less than 18 yrs and not a day older than 23 yrs upon admission for training (Born from 30 April 1989 to 30 April 1995)
- Single and has no legal obligation to support a child or children
- Physically and mentally fit for military training
- With good moral character

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(MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE DAY OF EXAMINATION)

- Fully Accomplished Application Form
- Authenticated Photocopy of NSO Birth Certificate
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- Two (2) pcs. 2x2 Picture with White Background

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- Applicants must wear white T-shirt and blue jeans when applying and during the conduct of examination.

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05 Nov 12	- 710th Lt. Liaison Airport, Legazpi City
05 Nov 12	- 580TH ABW, CAB, Angeles City, Pampanga
06 Nov 12	- 710th Lt. Liaison Airport, Legazpi, Isabela
11 Dec 12	- 15th ABW, Antonio Bautista Air Base, Palawan
08 Dec 12	- AWWMC, Col Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

VISAYAS

11 Dec 12	- 560th ABW, MBGAS, Lapu-Lapu City
11 Dec 12	- 710th Lt. Sqdn, Iloilo City

MINDANAO

04 Nov 12	- 330th ABW, CAAB, Zamboanga City
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OBITUARIES

ANGELINE B. SALINAS

An pumal sur Unatur on November 2, 2012 sa ine ogs of 74.

Hin remains lie at Royal Rooms, St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Ave., Quezon City today until November 6, 2012.

Cremation will be on November 7, 2012 at St. Peter's Crematorium after the 10:00 PM. Mass.

His family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

Department Order No. 133-12
Series of 2012

Creation of a Tripartite Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Social Amelioration and Welfare Program (SAWP) for Workers in the Global Industry

I. **Legal Basis/Background**

1. Pursuant to RA 8042 or the Migrant Act of 1995, the Department of Labor and Employment shall, among others, recommend plans, policies and programs that will enhance the social impact of the Migrant Worker Program.

2. RA8042, Act 1997 also provides for non-diminution of the existing benefits already enjoyed by Filipino workers under the POEA, or the Social Insurance Act, R.A. 8282, as amended, and other laws of the Philippines, and further, the establishment of a similar mechanism for the benefit of other Filipino workers.

3. The Global Industry is composed of shipboard out of supporting and maintenance and repair vessels or ocean-going vessels (OGV) and all personnel.

4. Section 2 (Section 10 of the 2002 Administrative Order No. 2006-1, the National Wages Board authorizes the DOLE to act as the implementing agency in the development and implementation of the Social Amelioration and Welfare Program for Global Workers, in consultation with concerned government agencies and other stakeholders.

5. Consistent with Article 276 of the Labor Code which provides for the adoption of programs in development and welfare among government workers and employers organizations, the DOLE shall establish a Tripartite consultative mechanism for the implementation of the SAWP for workers in the global industry.

II. **Creation of a Tripartite Consultative Council**

1. A Tripartite Consultative Council (TCC) is hereby created for such of the workers (shipboard and landbased) in the Global Industry. TCC is hereby created composed of the representatives, labor and employer representatives, which shall serve as the advisory body to the DOLE for policy making, program implementation and monitoring of the SAWP for Global workers.

2. The **TCC in the Shipboard Sector** shall be composed of nine (9) members to include:

Government Sector (3)
Secretary of DOLE or his/her duly authorized representative as ex-officio Chairperson;
One (1) representative from Department of Energy (DOE) to act as ex-officio Co-Chair; and
One (1) representative from Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) as ex-officio and Vice Chair for Shipboard Concerns.

Labor Sector (3)
Two (2) Shipboard Seafarer Workers
One (1) Shipboard Field Worker

Management Sector (3)
Two (2) Shipboard Manning Agencies
One (1) Shipboard Corporate Seafarer Employer

3. The **TCC in the Shorboard Sector** shall have eleven (11) members composed of the following:

Government Sector (3)
Secretary of DOLE or his duly authorized representative as ex-officio Chairperson;
One (1) representative from DOE (co-officio) as Co- Chair; and
One (1) representative from Legal Regulatory Administration (MA) (ex-officio) and Vice Chair for Shipboard Concerns.

Labor Sector (4)
Two (2) representatives from the Rank Workers' Group; and
Two (2) representatives from Field Workers' Group

Management Sector (4)
Two (2) representatives from the Employers' Group; and
Two (2) representatives from Planters' Group

4. The representatives from the Labor and Management Groups shall be appointed by the Secretary from among the nominees from their respective groups. Where there is no nomination from any organized group or no existing organization, the DOLE Secretary may appoint a representative to the TCC as he/she may deem fit.

5. The composition of the TCC may be increased by the DOLE Secretary upon entry of new ship or shipping companies as may certified by the Department of Energy for landbased production.

6. The Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) of the DOLE shall act as the technical and administrative secretariat to the TCC and shall directly report to the Secretary, or his/her designated undersecretary.

7. The landbased shall appoint representatives from the Management and the Labor Groups, respectively, to the TCC, who shall be selected from the landbased production and workers' organizations, respectively for a term of three (3) years. In case of vacancy, the successor shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of his/her predecessor. The representatives may come from the nominees of the group which nominated the predecessor.

8. In case there are no nominees from the organized labor groups, the Secretary may appoint the representatives of the workers from among the three (3) most-wise confederations of the SAWP who can represent the labor sector.

III. Criteria for Nomination of TCC Members

1. Representation by the Labor Group

   a. A legitimate labor organization, union or workers' association or cooperatives that represents the landbased personnel of industrial workers providing landbase for landbase production; and

   b. A legitimate organization, federations, association or cooperatives of seamans or farm workers, duly registered by the DOLE or any recognized labor organization, agency or representing farmers and farm workers providing landbase for landbase production.

2. Representation by the Management Group

   a. Duly appointed officers or representatives of landbase producers or association of landbase manufacturers duly accredited by the BWSC; and

   b. An official or representative of Governor Ltd (GOL) not providing landbase for landbase production and duly registered with the POEA.

IV. Power and Functions

1. The TCC shall serve as the advisory body to the DOLE (MBWS) by the effective implementation of SAWP in the global industry. Specifically, it shall:

   a. Assist in the development and evaluation of policies relating to SAWP for landbase workers;

   b. Recommend to the Secretary, any programs and projects that will ensure the effective and efficient utilization of the SAWP fund allocated for socio-economic programs and any and all of its necessary and incidental;

   c. Evaluate and recommend to the Secretary any necessary adjustment in the amount of the contribution to be paid in determining the amount of fee for the implementation of SAWP;

   d. Recommend to the Secretary the manner of utilization of the SAWP fund generated, including the interest earned on the investment of projects and programs for landbase workers;

   e. Recommend to the Secretary whenever necessary the creation of sub-committees to ensure that specific concerns are addressed;

   f. Recommend to the Secretary, whenever necessary, the creation of more Tripartite Consultative Councils for landbase workers;

   g. Conduct studies and researches on SAWP and other related matters;

   h. Perform such other functions necessary to attain the objectives of the SAWP for landbase workers.

2. The TCC shall hold meetings once every quarter at a place, date and time fixed by it, provided that it may conduct special meetings called upon by the Chairperson, or upon request by at least three (3) of its members by the Secretariat.

V. Entitlement to and Payment of Travelling Expenses

Subject to the availability of fund, the Chairperson or his/her duly authorized representative and the members of the TCC shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual and necessary travelling expenses. The representatives from the workers and employers group shall, in addition, be entitled to per diem for meetings attended by them which may be charged against the available fund of DOLE for SAWP implementation, subject to availability of fund and accounting and auditing rules.

VI. Repealing Clause

The Order amends DOLE Department Order No. 126-10 and all rules and administrative issuances inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed.

VII. Effectivity

This Department Order shall take effect immediately.

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Secretary

Manila, 26 July 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

Department Order No. 123-12
Series of 2012

GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL AMELIORATION AND WELFARE PROGRAM FOR WORKERS IN THE BIOFUEL INDUSTRY UTILIZING COCONUT AS FEEDSTOCK

I. **Legal Basis**

Section 11 (e) of Republic Act No. 9367, otherwise known as "The Biofuels Act of 2006" provides that the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall: (1) Promote gainful livelihood opportunities and facilitate productive employment through effective employment services and regulation; (2) Ensure the access of workers to productive resources and social protection coverage; and, (3) Formulate and implement programs that will address the social impact of this National Biofuels Program (NBP).

Section 11 of the same Act mandates the National Biofuel Board (NBB) to establish a social amelioration program under the Sugar Amelioration Act of 1985 (R.A. 6260) for the benefit of sugar industry workers.

Per authority granted under Joint Administrative Order No. 2006-1 dated of 2006, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall be the implementing agency for the development and management of the Social Amelioration and Welfare Program (SAWP) for biofuel workers. In pursuance thereof, the following guidelines on the SAWP for workers in the biofuel industry using coconut as feedstock, are hereby issued:

II. **Definition of Terms**

1. Act – shall refer to the Biofuels Act of 2006;
2. ADF – shall refer to the "Administrative Expense Fund" (3% of the fund's allocation) for the implementation of this SAWP in the biofuel industry utilizing coconut as feedstock;
3. Biodiesel – shall refer to Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) or mono-alkyl esters derived from vegetable oils or animal fats and other biomass material oils that shall be technically proven and approved by the DOE for use in diesel engines with quality specifications in accordance with the Philippine National Standards (PNS);
4. Biofuel shall refer to biodiesel and bioethanol and other fuels made from biomass and primarily used for engine, thermal and power generation with quality specifications with the PNS and added or blended to petroleum fuels for transport or other chemical or physical properties and improve performance usage of the fuels;
5. Biofuel Worker – shall refer to a rank and file worker or employee in distillery plant, including a farm worker who is directly engaged in the production of biofuel and does not maintain the biofuel production;
6. BMSC – shall refer to the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns of the Department of Labor and Employment;
7. Coco Biodiesel Workers – shall refer to workers in duly accredited CME plants (CBP) which produce coconut methyl ester or products are used in the production of biodiesel (CME);
8. CME – shall refer to Coconut Methyl Ester or coco-biodiesel which is derived from coconut;
9. CME plant – shall refer to the facility where CME is processed into semi-refined;
10. CME producer – shall refer to the duly accredited CME producer engaging benefits from fiscal incentives and tax exemptions provided for under RA 9367 or the Act;
11. CNO Mill – shall refer to the duly accredited coconut mill whose coconut oil was delivered and used for the production of coco biodiesel (CME);
12. Diesel – shall refer to refined petroleum distillate, which may contain certain additives, used as a fuel in diesel engines and characterized by high ignition quality or other characteristics suitable for compression ignition engine and other suitable types of engines with quality specifications in accordance with the PNS;
13. DOE – shall refer to the Department of Energy created under Republic Act No. 7638, as amended;
14. DOLE – shall refer to the Department of Labor and Employment created under Executive Order No. 126, as amended;
15. Farm workers – shall refer to workers who are members of duly accredited organizations or cooperatives whose crops are used in the production of coco-biodiesel (CME);
16. Feedstock – shall refer to organic sources such as indigenous copperine, cassava, coconut, jatropha, sweet sorghum or other biomass used in the production of biofuel;
17. Fund – shall refer to the "Social Amelioration and Welfare Program for Biofuel Workers Fund" created to provide assistance to poor and finance the socio-economic programs of the rank and file workers involved in the production of CME and coconut farm workers whose coconuts are used in the production of the CME;
18. NBB or Board – shall refer to the "National Biofuel Board" created under Section 8 of the Biofuels Act of 2006;
19. PCA – shall refer to the Philippine Coconut Authority created under PD 232 as amended by Presidential Decrees 961 and 1468;
20. Regional Office – shall refer to the Regional Offices of the Department of Labor and Employment implementing this SAWP in respective regional areas;
21. SAP – shall refer to the Social Amelioration Program conceptualized under Presidential Decree 631, as amended and elaborated under Republic Act 6982;
22. SAWP- shall refer to the Social Amelioration and Welfare Program;
23. Secretary – shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;
24. TCC – shall refer to the Tripartite Consultative Council for SAWP in the Biofuel Sector of the Biofuel Industry created from the advisory body to the DOLE in the policy and program development and implementation of SAWP.

III. **Objectives and Program Components**

1. Objectives:
   a. Promote gainful livelihood opportunities;
   b. Facilitate productive employment through effective employment services and regulations; and
   c. Ensure the access of workers to productive resources and social protection coverage.
2. Program Components:
   a. Livelihood Assistance;
   b. Training and Educational Assistance;
   c. Social Protection and Welfare Benefits; and
   d. Emergency Assistance.

IV. **Coverage**

1. Employees who are coco-biodiesel (CME) producers duly accredited under RA 9367 or existing laws;
2. Employees/workers of CME distillery plants except managerial employees, workers in coconut oil mills that provide feedstock, coconut farmers and farm workers who are engaged in feedstock for biofuel production.

V. **Tripartite Consultative Council**

1. The DOLE shall create a Tripartite Consultative Council (TCC) for SAWP in the Biofuel Industry composed of representatives of management, labor and concerned sectors, which shall serve as the consultative body of the DOLE in policy-making, program implementation and monitoring of this SAWP.
2. Local Tripartite Consultative Council (LTCC) shall likewise be created as may be necessary.
3. The BWSC and the Regional Office concerned shall provide coordination and technical support to the TCC and LTCCs, respectively.

VI. **The BWSC and DOLE Regional Offices:**

1. Role of the BWSC:
   a. Assist the Secretary in carrying out the provisions of these guidelines and in the formulation of policies, issuances, rules and regulations;
   b. Opening and maintaining an interest bearing bank account in an authorized government depository bank under the name of the Department of Labor and Employment, for which SAWP fund will be deposited and used as a Fund in behalf of the coco-biodiesel workers;
   c. Monitor and report the status of compliance on the collection and remittance of the SAWP fee including the utilization of SAWP fund;
   d. Continuously monitor and evaluate the social and economic programs, projects and activities undertaken pursuant to these guidelines;
   e. Provide technical assistance and support to the Regional Offices in implementing the SAWP;
   f. Develop appropriate manual of operations and procedures as may be necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of the SAWP; and
   g. Prepare reports to the Secretary on this program.
2. Role of the Regional Offices:
   a. Conduct advocacy and information dissemination on relevant policies and projects on the SAWP;
   b. Enforce compliance of all accredited CME producers on the collection and remittance of the SAWP fee;
   c. Provide technical guidelines to the program stakeholders on the management and implementation of social and economic projects;
   d. Monitor and evaluate the status of programs and projects implemented at the regional level;
   e. Submit to the Secretary through the TCC, periodic reports and status on SAWP implementation including the required financial reports;
   f. Provide accompanied and technical support to the local TCCs, as may be required; and
   g. Perform such other functions as may be necessary.

VII. **Management of the Law**

1. Nature, Purposes and Components of the Law:
   a. Effective Calendar Year 2012, a levy of Php0.25 per liter of CME produced and sold shall initially be imposed and implemented. Subject to review every two (2) years for possible adjustment upon the recommendation of the Tripartite Consultative Council.
   b. The collected fee shall be used to primarily augment the income and finance the social and economic programs to improve the livelihood and well-being of coco-biodiesel workers directly involved in feedstock production and CME production.
   c. The Secretary of DOLE may, upon the recommendations of the TCC, increase the amount of the upon his/her determination of its viability, taking into consideration the declared policy of this SAWP.
   d. The proceeds shall not be taken from but will be borne by the CME producers.
2. Collection and Remittance of SAWP Levy:
   a. The SAWP fund shall be borne by accredited CME producers for the benefit of coco-biodiesel workers.
   b. All CME producers are mandated to remit not later than the 7th day after the end of every month, the SAWP fee corresponding to the volume of CME produced and sold, to an interest bearing bank account in an authorized government depository bank created for the purpose under the name of the Department of Labor and Employment, which shall be held in trust in behalf of the coco-biodiesel workers. The fees that will be charged therefrom shall be computed based on the actual volume of CME produced as reported to the Department of Energy (DOE).
   c. In regard of collection and remittance, including statement of bank accounts shall be submitted to the DOLE-BWSC, on a monthly basis, within fifteen (15) days from the end of each reference month.
   d. Any interest earned from deposit and authorized investments shall accrue to the Fund which shall be used for programs and projects intended for coco-biodiesel workers.
   e. Aggregate of ten percent (10%) per month or unremitted fee collection within the duration of the grace period of seven (7) days from the end of the reference month shall be imposed upon non-remitting production facility/ies for non-remitting or non-collected shall accrue to this Fund.
   f. The Department of Labor and Employment, through the BWSC shall administer and manage the Fund, including its income and interests.
3. Fund Allocation, Budget and Audit:
   a. Ninety five percent (95%) of the Fund shall be allocated for the social and economic programs and projects for coco-biodiesel workers to be distributed as follows:
      a.1 Fifty percent (50%) to livelihood assistance (30% to farm workers and 10% for CME plant or coconut oil mill workers);
      a.2 Twenty percent (20%) for training and educational assistance;
      a.3 Fifteen percent (15%) for social protection and welfare benefits; and
      a.4 Ten percent (10%) for emergency assistance.
   b. Five percent (5%) of the Fund shall be for the management and implementation of this SAWP by the BWSC and concerned DOLE Regional Offices for the operation of TCC or local consultative bodies that may be created.
   c. The BWSC, in collaboration with the TTC, shall prepare an annual budget for the operation of this program, to be submitted to the Secretary for approval.
   d. The said fund shall be audited by the Commission on Audit (COA).

VIII. **Mechanics for the Enrollment and Implementation of its Benefits**

1. Enrollment of SAWP Benefits:
   a. The following may propose announcements project for coco-biodiesel workers:
      a.1 Accredited and SAWP fee contributing CME producers;
      a.2 Duly organized and federated providing coconut or oil organizations;
      a.3 Duly registered workers' organizations; and/ or
      a.4 The Department of Labor and Employment.
   b. The following workers who should be members of, registered in duly accredited organizations of the Philippine Coconut Authority, this Department of Labor and Employment or any government-registering organization, are eligible to avail of SAWP benefits:
      b.1 Workers of the CME distillery plant except managerial employees;
      b.2 Workers in coconut oil mill that provide feedstock; and
      b.3 Coconut farmers and farm workers whose crops or products are used as feedstock for coco-biodiesel production.
   c. The benefits provided under these guidelines shall not in any way reduce any benefit, mutual right or participation already enjoyed by the workers. No amount received by any worker under these guidelines shall be subject to any form of taxation.
   d. Waiver and offer or receipt of the financial and welfare benefits in this form of cash by the worker, the same cannot be subject to attachment, garnishment, levy or seizure by virtue of or under any legal process except to pay any debt of the worker or whenever expressly authorized or ratified/made of his/her legal obligation.
2. Project Description:
   a. Livelihood Assistance shall include a package of direct services to establish or improve and expand workers existing livelihood assets and income, such as but not limited to, livelihood and cooperative enterprises that can provide employment and assets income for their families and communities. The services shall include training on entrepreneurship and business development, access to credit and management, materials including initial cash out working capital.
   b. Training and Vocational Education assistance shall include public training and retraining to enhance employability to farm-and non-farm enterprises. Training activities may include, but not limited to, financial literacy, network building and other capacity building assistance to provide entrepreneurship and improve self-employment, project or proposals, skills advancement, and other training activities and interventions for technical vocational education or tertiary assistance toward developing skilled workers in the industry.
   c. Social Protection and Welfare Benefits shall include package of services that will promote work improvement, productivity, safety and health, promote basic preventive health care, nutrition and hygiene practices, provision of healthcare and protection against shortages to reduce their vulnerabilities against job loss and/or health risks. It may also include a one-time cash assistance equivalent to one month contribution for social security and health insurance to jump start retention in social security and health insurance, respectively; and
   d. Emergency Assistance shall include assistance against unexpected or catastrophic events such as earthquake, typhoons, landslides, flooding, prolonged drought, fire and other calamities. It may also provide for food relief and cash assistance, emergency employment program and other services to eligible workers, (families, employers) experiencing crisis due to natural disasters, calamities, epidemics and other emergency. Disaster or crises-intensity for purpose of providing start-up capital for self-employment and enterprise development.
3. Processing, Release, Utilization and Audit of the Project Fund:
   a. The Regional Offices or units of the DOLE and PCA may provide technical assistance to the proponents in the preparation of project proposals, when necessary or as requested.
   b. The BWSC/RO, shall take appropriate action on the project proposals endorsed to benefit workers in the socio-technical level.
   c. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be entered into by the DOLE and the proponent, upon approval of the proposal.
   d. The release of the fund to the proponent shall be in accordance with the government accounting and auditing rules and procedures.
   e. The proponent shall utilize the SAWP fund received from DOLE exclusively for the intended purposes and in accordance with the guidelines.
   f. The proponent shall keep and maintain separate books of account, subsidiary records and workers/farmers bank account for SAWP fund received from DOLE which shall be subject to the audited visit and examination of the BWSC and/or the Commission on Audit (COA); and
   g. The proponent shall submit to BWSC the required physical and financial reports on the project.
4. Acquisition and Disposition of Equipment and Machinery:
   a. No purchase of equipment and machinery shall be allowed, unless authorized in writing by the DOLE Secretary or his/her authorized representative as contained in the approved project proposal.
   b. As a general rule, authorized procurement of equipment and machinery shall be made through competitive bidding. Accepting documents relative to the purchase of equipment shall be kept as part of the liquidation report to be submitted to the BWSC.
   c. In the event that a particular project ceases its operation, if the proponent acquired equipment, any equipment and machinery acquired out of the project fund shall be submitted and turned over by the proponent to BWSC for proper disposition, subject to accounting and auditing rules.
   d. The BWSC/concerned DOLE Regional Office shall maintain an inventory of assets, equipment and machinery derived from SAWP fund, subject to the different government rules for disposition thereof and utilization of Board of Canvasser as may be provided in the MOA.

IX. **Administrative Expense Fund and Program Management**

1. The 3% of the SAWP fee referred to as the Administrative Expense Fund (ADF) to be administered by the DOLE through the BWSC shall be utilized for the management and implementation of the SAWP and operation of the TCC and/or local consultative bodies.
2. The BWSC shall prepare an annual operational budget relative to the implementation of the SAWP and the operation of the TCC.
3. All disbursements thereof shall be made in accordance with existing government auditing rules and regulations.
4. For accounting and management reporting purposes, the BWSC and concerned DOLE Regional Offices shall be required to use the accounts and other records, such as general and subsidiary ledgers, journals, including related financial reports on transactions pertaining to SAWP Fund.
5. In addition to the usual required financial reports, the Regional Offices and other SAWP program partners and implementers shall submit the following reports to the BWSC:
   a. Financial Report not later than the 5th day of the month after the reference quarter; and
   b. Physical Report not later than the 15th day of the month after the reference quarter.
6. The BWSC shall consolidate said reports and submit progress and financial reports to the Secretary, copy furnished the TCC and NBB and other concerned entities.

X. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

1. The DOLE, PCA and the DOE shall set up a comprehensive monitoring system on the CME production and sales including employment and income generated due to coco-biodiesel, including the development and maintenance of database on biodiesel workers, towards ensuring timely and accurate collection of the SAWP fee.

XI. **Reportorial Requirement**

2.1 The CME producers shall submit the following:

   a. To BWSC
      a.1. Production volume, price and sales of CMEs, both for local and for export;
      a.2. Copy of CME production;
      a.3. List of all companies or third parties buyers and respective volume and amount of CME purchased /bought; and
      a.4. Other data as may be necessary.
   b. To DOLE through the BWSC
      b.1. Proof of monthly SAWP fee payment or copy of bank deposit slip;
      b.2. List of bank and fee workers in CME plant, their position and designation and status who are directly involved in the CME production;
      b.3. Volume and amount of feedstock used and CME production volume and price;
      b.4. Actual feedstock supplier(s);
      b.5. List of feedstock workers and their corresponding organizations who are eligible to benefit under SAWP;
      b.6. Sources of feedstock (barangay, municipality and province) and volume delivered for CME production for contract; and
      b.7. Other data or information as may be necessary.

2.2 The producers supplying feedstock to Biodiesel Manufacturers/ Producers shall submit the following:

   a. To PCA:
      a.1. Monthly and annual volume of feedstock delivered for production to Biodiesel manufacturers or CME producers;
      a.2. Monthly and annual total amount of feedstock delivered for production of CME/ biodiesel;
      a.3. Sources of feedstock (barangay, municipality and province) used in CME production; and
      a.4. Other data as may be necessary.

3. The DOLE through the BWSC/Regional Office shall consolidate the amount of SAWP fee remitted with accurate production of feedstock used and CME production reports from CME records of CME production data as provided for CME producers.
4. The BWSC shall be responsible for the development of monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the SAWP fee collection, compliance and assessment including projects implemented to coco-biodiesel workers and their dependents.

XII. **Penalties and Sanctions/Resolution of Issues**

1. As provided for under Section 13 of the RA 9367, any person who willfully sells or distributes biodiesel blends that do not conform to Section 12 thereof or who causes of the commission of any such act by another shall be liable in the same manner as the principal.
2. In case of associations, partnership or corporation, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers, directors or trustees, chief executive officer, directors or officers, responsible for the violation.
3. The DOLE Secretary shall recommend to NBB and DOE to suspend or stop the business operations of concerned biofuel producers for refusal to comply with the provisions of RA 9367 and/or these guidelines as well as to impose appropriate administrative fines and penalties for any violation thereof.
4. The DOLE Secretary or his/her authorized representative shall recommend to the NBB and DOE the filing of appropriate cases against any erring company organization, persons for any violation of these guidelines in the appropriate court.
5. Issues arising from the implementation or interpretation of these guidelines shall be submitted to the DOLE Secretary for resolution and appropriate action.

XIII. **Effectivity**

1. Any provision of these guidelines which may be declared null or void shall not affect the validity and effectivity of other provisions hereof.
2. These guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Done this 28th day of October 2012 at Manila, Philippines.

Secretary

BUSINESS

Pressure on to meet exports goal, officials say

Energy firms need to draw up exit plans

By Jerry E. Barcia

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is drafting a circular that will mandate all companies holding a Philippine petroleum service contract to submit an "abandonment" or exit plan to be followed when their licenses expire, as well as maintain a sinking fund solely for this purpose.

"The DOE is considering a circular on abandonment for petroleum service contractors. It needs to be done [so] the obligations of service contractors when they abandon the projects [after 25 or 30 years]," said Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. "You'll be surprised...our existing service contractors do not have an abandonment clause."

The circular will ensure that significant parties are held accountable in protecting the environment "and make sure that we are adequately prepared both financially and technically when there is abandonment of a service contract area," Layug further explained.

Even the country's most successful natural gas project to date—the $4.5-billion Malampaya deep water-to-gas power project—did not have an abandonment clause in the service contract awarded to the consortium operating it, according to Layug.

In other jurisdictions, a sinking fund is set up for petroleum service contract holders to cover an undertaking a sinking fund under an escrow-bearing escrow account within a year from the start of commercial production.

The amount to be put in the sinking fund can be discussed as an operating expense. This means it is cost recoverable, Layug explained.

But the energy official said that they have yet to peg a suitable figure for the sinking fund, which should be sufficient enough to pay for the necessary costs to remove whatever needs to be removed after a company ceases operations in a particular oil or gas field.

As soon as it takes effect sometime next year, the circular will be retroactive, which means that the companies or consortia operating producing fields like the Malampaya—which has been operating since 2001—will be required to submit their abandonment program within a particular time frame and to start setting up a sinking fund for this purpose.

For its part, the Philippine government will also have several options under the proposed circular. One, the government may have the option to implement the abandonment program given sufficient funds.

If the field is still producing and the operator has already maximized its recovery, the government may have the option to take over the operations of the service contract.

Oil well is in the Philippines have already produced a total of 62 million barrels of oil, 45 million barrels of condensate and 1.811 billion standard cubic feet of gas from 1970 up to 2010.

The oil have been sourced from the rich oil and gas fields of Malampaya, Nido, Matinloc, Cadlao, Tara, North Matinloc, Galoc, West Linapacan and Tindalo.

At present, there are only 27 active petroleum service contracts in the country.

PH unlikely to meet 2012 trade goals

By Riza T. Olchondra

WITH exports expected to fall below target this year, the pressure is on for a turnaround starting next year to meet the country's medium-term goals, officials said.

"We just have to work harder since our growth target next year will be higher than what we initially targeted. There is a plan for improving processes, developing new markets and such. The key factor is if the markets will absorb more," Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said in a phone interview.

Exports will probably end the year with 5 percent to 6 percent growth in electronics, which make up the bulk of shipments, "would be negative," Luis added.

Exporters are aiming for an 11 percent annual growth in exports starting in 2013 to hit $120 billion in 2016.

In 2010, exports were valued at $51.448 billion.

The goal was based on the assumption of a 10-percent growth in outbound shipments this year from last year's $47.007 billion. But even Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said that, "more realistically," exports revenue may grow between 5 to 7 percent.

And with this year's result likely to be lower than expected, the country's exports will have to grow at rates faster than initially targeted starting next year in order to meet the $120 billion target of 2016, the Export Development Council (EDC) said.

"We can still double up [exports] by 2016, [but in five years ahead] growth should be about 14 or 15 percent [a year]," EDC executive director Jessica Poe Lulu told reporters last week.

Semiconductors and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) president Ernesto Santiago said earlier their expected exports of electronic products to be "flat" this year, given the continuing drop in outbound shipments.

Seipi initially set a 10 to 20 percent growth target for exports of electronic products this year, but to meet its projection to between 5 and 7 percent in July, citing a weak global recovery affecting demand for shipments.

Ortiz-Luis said that while electronic exports are still down from a year ago, the Philippine Exporters Confederation is optimistic that next year will be better.

Economic woes in the US and the EU may not bode for long, Luis said. "Recession is on the rebound."

From January to August, outbound shipments of electronic products declined by 8.17 percent to $15.59 billion from last year.

Aggregate merchandise exports as of end-August, meanwhile, reached $35.203 billion—up 0.4 percent from last year.

The Philippines is aiming for an average 7 to 8 percent growth in domestic output a year from 2013 to 2016 to curb poverty, based on the Philippine Development Plan.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Unesco cites Vigan, Banawe Rice Terraces for heritage achievements

TOP: TRUE TO the Ifugao spirit, the local community reclaimed possession of their rice terraces, found the balance between tradition and contemporary culture, and worked out a system of maintenance that resulted in the restoral of the terraces from the World Heritage in Danger List. Above: Vigan has found the balance between heritage and community development. It has been recognized as Best Conservation Practice winner among 28 other international entries to the Unesco search for Best Conservation Practices among World Heritage Cities

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

YEAR 2012 is a banner year for the Philippines in conservation and management of World Heritage properties.

Last month, the Unesco World Heritage Centre announced in Paris that the Historic City of Vigan won the highest award for the Best Conservation Management of World Heritage Properties.

Last June, the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera was removed from the World Heritage in Danger List, with high recognition being given to the Ifugao community by the members of the World Heritage Committee during its 36th annual Session in St Petersburg, Russian Federation.

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera, a World Heritage property composed of five terrace clusters in Ifugao province, had been placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of the site's deterioration over the years due to overlapping and conflicting work management systems, conflict between traditional and 20th-century agricultural and cultural practices, which resulted in neglected irrigation and the degradation of the terraces.

The criteria for the decision to remove the property from the In Danger List included **conservation, site restoration and conservation**, as well as planning and **property management**.

Most significantly, members of the World Heritage Committee recently applauded the **Ifugao community which worked** closely to save their terraces **with the local government, the** private sector and with some **assistance from the international** community.

The rice terraces were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995 as an "extraordinary example of an evolved, living cultural landscape," terraces carved by Ifugao fathers using stone-walled systems. A **tradition still remained today** at the entrance of the rice.

The terraces today are "the fruit of knowledge handed down from one generation to the next, and the expression of sacred traditions and a delicate social balance."

Outstanding is the role of the Ifugao people in the conservation. Spokesperson of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera Ifugao Boy Dulnuan said the terraces date from the 2nd millennium over the years due to overlapping and conflicting work management systems, conflict between traditional and 19th-century agricultural and cultural practices, which resulted in neglected irrigation and the degradation of the terraces.

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Most excellent

The Historic City of Vigan, one of five Philippine properties inscribed on the Unesco's World Heritage List, received the highest award in the Best Conservation Management of World Heritage Properties, a special award given by Unesco to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2012.

A 18-member selection committee, consisting of experts from the World Heritage Centre, representatives of Unesco regional groups, Iconos and Icrom (advisory bodies to the World Heritage Centre), that examined all the submissions according to the established criteria, acknowledged Vigan as most excellent among submissions from 28 countries.

Vigan was cited for its good management practice achieved with relatively limited resources; integration of the local community into many aspects of the sustainable conservation and property management; development of an interesting multifaceted approach to site protection.

"The judges did not only focus on conservation of the city but also the total development of the city which envelops tourism, water environment protection and urban property," said Vigan Mayor Eva Maria Singzon Medina, who will receive the city's award during the World Heritage 40th-anniversary celebration in Kyoto on Nov. 6.

Vigan, established in the 16th century, was inscribed on the World Heritage List as the best-preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia.

"Its architecture reflects the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Philippines, from China and from Europe, resulting in a colonial town unlike any other," states the World Heritage inscription.

Among the outstanding values of Vigan which merited its inscription as a World Heritage property is that the city represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning.

State of pressure

Outstanding is the fact that **both conservation achievements** were the result of work and commitment from the residents communities of both provinces, which aware of the value of their heritage, worked together with local government, private entities and NGOs, and values elevated foreign interventions to boost their specific needs.

Outstanding, too, is the fact that both properties achieved internationally acclaimed conservation standards with extremely limited budgets.

The Philippine Committee of International Council of Monuments and Sites Diomed Inaki Gracia and Nina Diomed Inaki of the Cultural Tourism for Community Development Conference in Vigan on Nov. 1-10, an event made even more significant that Unesco has recognized Vigan as a global leader in community-led conservation.

The international community acknowledges the Philippines for leading the way in community-based conservation. At the Vigan conference, the Department of Foreign Affairs has invited participants from developing countries to learn from the Philippines how to introduce to local communities that heritage is an unrecognized driver for development.

With the constant wave of pressure that Philippine heritage is in, knowing that we have done something if not things, actually—Ifugao and Vigan) right has brought unanimous support from the professionals who work in conserving our heritage.

Congratulations to all who have worked in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera and in the Historic City of Vigan.

E-mail the author pride.place@gmail.com.

EDWIN Antonio, secretary of the National Committee on Northern Cultural Communities; Ambrosio Anduz, head of the National Committee on Southern Cultural Communities; Jenny Crisostial, festival director (NCCA consultant); Jayvie Dorado Alegre; Maria Venus Raj, Dayaw ambassador; NCCA chair Felipe M. de Leon Jr.; NCCA planning head Maritha Tolibas; Antonio Cayong, (NCMCC vice head; Ruben Ulo, NCSCC secretary

Dayaw festival celebrates indigenous people's cultures

By Lance G. Reblora
Contributor

DAYAW, THE biggest celebration of indigenous Filipino cultures, is not only a meeting of different traditions but a reflection of Filipino identity, organizers said during a press conference held at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts lobby last Oct. 24.

"Ang Dayaw ay isang magandang pagdiriwang ng ating ginintuang kasaysayan, kamalayang pangmundo at kasalukuyang pinakaugat ng ating pagka-Pilipino," NCCA chair Felipe de Leon Jr., said. "Lahat naman tayo ay kasangkot. Don't deny dapat kung tayo ay nagaping kultura ka."

Dayaw is the annual gathering of the country's indigenous people in connection with October as Indigenous People's Month. NCCA extends the celebration as it holds Dayaw 2012 in Baguio on Nov. 27-29.

De Leon said the people must be aware of their cultures and must take pride in being Filipinos. He lamented that there were Filipinos who subscribed to the ideals and thinking of Western cultures and forgot to see the beauty and worth of their own cultures and traditions.

"Our indigenous resources are inexhaustible. They are an asset," he said. "Hindi lang cultural, kung hindi economical din. We are not utilizing our traditional medicine. Import tayo nang import ng mga drugs. Gaanon din kung maraming beauty parlor, di ninyo? Nasa Kanluran. Kailangan maputi at kailangan mamaya ang itsa. Eh, ang gagamit naman ng kulay natin, ang gagamit naman ng purse mga."

About 700 participants from different indigenous communities all over the Philippines are expected to join this year's Dayaw. Groups such as the Bontok, Ibaw, Ifugao and T'boli will be attending the event.

Beauty in Dayaw

Venus Raj, 2010 Miss Universe 4th Runner up, has been tapped by the NCCA as Dayaw ambassador. The beauty queen is delighted that she would get to represent the indigenous people because she considers herself one of them.

Raj recalled her childhood experiences in Bicol. She said that in Manila "organic food" was very expensive while everything that they ate in the province was all organic but cheap.

Commissioner Jenrie Bonaldo Alegre, head of the NCCA's Subcommittee on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts, said that Raj was the perfect celebrity to be the representative of Dayaw because of her Bicol roots, and most especially because of her native beauty.

Meaning of 'dayaw'

Alegre said that the NCCA had been assembling indigenous people together before. But the previous gatherings were not called "Dayaw" because the name of the event always depended on its host community.

In 2007, the celebration was called "Kalinangan" and was held in Davao City. The following year, it was named "Tinguyog" in Isabela. In 2009, it was "Duligay" in Capiz.

Dayaw was adopted in 2010 and 2011, in Manila and Davao del Sur.

Alegre explained that NCCA chose Dayaw because dayaw in Pan'sy means "papuri" or "puri" in Filipinese, "to take pride"), and in the Ilocos, "respect."

Dayaw 2012 will be the biggest feat of the indigenous people. It is a venue for discussions between the government and the communities; a showcase of traditional arts and culture; and a learning experience for both the indigenous people and the people from the mainland.

"Dayaw is a means for exchanges between the indigenous communities," said Marichu Tolibas, planning head of the NCCA.

De Leon said that "this will be a smorgasbord and a buffet of traditional cultures," and "with Dayaw, we will begin to respect more our indigenous cultures. Kasi pagdating dito ang galing Pinoy, sa embroidery colege or batakdang forerunners or baliers."

Dominic Rubio celebrates Escolta and Old Manila

From page C1

Rubio's "Familia de la Escolta" captures this wonderful pastime—which rarely happens in modern times. A family of three (father, mother and son) stroll along with a mini-carnival Escolta in the background, dressed in period attire...seven hat and white suit for the father; a Maria Clara outfit for the mother; and a white polo and shorts for junior.

Rubio's characteristic elongation of form media is present, as is the sepia of the sky, indicating nostalgia.

Escolta was also the business center of **waterfront Manila, and Rubio's "Columbus Wonder"** was one of many hawkers and shopkeepers that ushered the bustling district.

Rubio has had several exhibitions to and around the region, including those in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore. Critic Gil Reyes **summarizes "Reversing is** the pointillism applications of pigment and the delineation of the figures... textile, ritually adept, Rubio displays impressive workmanship."

A product of the University of Santo Tomas, Rubio **surpasses himself with** the latest exhibition.

For more information, contact Galeria Joaquin at 371 B Guevarra St., and Montmartre Lane in San Juan City, Metro Manila. Call tel. 632.7259418, or e-mail at info@galeriajoaquin.com. Visit www.galeriajoaquin.com. The exhibit will run at the Art Center until Nov. 28.

"ESCOLTA Intersection"

"FLAYING Around"

"SCHOOLMATES" (at left), "Pastel at Sinamar"

Dominic Rubio celebrates Escolta and Old Manila

ESCOLTA, ROMERROS: Manila's Ilin, Ortal and Rizzalis dynasties, who were the owners of what was the most cosmopolitan city in Asia.

Testament to its essence is the presence of beautiful buildings along the bank of the Pasig. These grand structures served as an encouragement to the model of Manila's place as the premier city of Asia.

The ravages of war and the decline of the old City of Manila as the center of the country—indeed, as the prestige city of Asia—have not been kind to Escolta. In the postwar years, its former grey way as fashion moved to the high-rises of Makati and Ortigas. Nevertheless, the brilliant edifices remained—such reminders of Manila's glorious past.

The architectural scope of these buildings shows the various styles that prospered early-20th-century Manila. Ranging from Neo-Classical to Art Deco, each building tells a story of a bygone era—a nostalgic journey to that speaks to our sense of heritage.

It's encouraging then that this is cited by the kind of hobbit that is Dominic Rubio events in. Rubio has made a career of depicting what is idyllic of old and Manila.

Now he tackles the history of that once glorious avenue, Escolta, in a new series of paintings done in partnership with the International Council of Monuments and Sites Sciences and the Escolta Commercial Association.

Aiming to juxtapose heritage conservation efforts, these new works show the gentrification of old Escolta in a one-of-a-kind exhibition, "Balik Hayuka: Escolta, Escolta, & Old Manila," will open at the Art Center, U.N. Ave. Megamall, Mandaluyong City on Nov. 12, with a special preview on Nov. 7.

An essential element of life during Escolta's heyday was the pasyal after Mass. The arcade is no more in the wonderfully baroque church of Sta. Cruz. After Mass, parishioners would stroll along Ilaya the beautiful mansion buildings.

CORRECTED

Bohemian images at JIV Manila

JIV MANILA Art Gallery and Creating Space Inc. will open Bilkis Gerilla-Reyes's solo exhibit, "La Vie Bohemia," on Nov. 18, 6 p.m.

"La Vie Bohemia" is a graphic essay of questions, answers and the interlocution of first and last impressions of the question through keen use of lines, stories and spices. The collection of drawings of women, objects and landscapes presents the commonsensical yet unexpected unpublishness of the imagined. Its colored and the wondering.

"The artist's rendering of elements and icons on paper may be attributed to the gender of the 1960s, the mandalas and the metamorphism, and the nebulous experienced in nature," said curator Bambi Beltran. "Bilkis's mental-emotional space is captured on paper in perhaps re-enactments of several seasons of worldwork intersected. One of her personal elements may just even be an explosion of a flickering remembrance of a cluster of beliefs suspended on a misty windowpane."

Bilkis Gerilla is a graduate of Art Studies from the University of the Philippines. She has been doing creative services to artist-and-makers-ing groups, and designing for international brands in the past several years. She has participated in group art exhibitions and continually does, also to, her own personal journal.

"La Vie Bohemia" reveals her very personal drawings to the public. Exhibit runs until Nov. 28.

Part of the proceeds of the exhibit is a relief fund for community development projects and community libraries.

Guests are encouraged to come in their bohemian ensemble. For inquiries and confirmations, contact Jiv Arch Magalang at 7989598; e-mail kmjiv@ymail.com; visit www.jivmanila.com.

CLOCKWISE from top: "Untitled," "Spirit Spell," "Untitled," "Untitled," "Untitled"

Anthuriums: Olazo's fever for flowers

By Carl Reyes
Contributor

GRUZ painters were enamored with flowers, especially showy diapered ones, sabor and afternoon and in a multiplicity of occasions.

His Gogh is practically swooned with sunflowers although he painted several irises, too.

Claude Monet's obsession with flowers can be seen in his garden in Giverny, located just outside of Paris, where he worked with his family. In Monet's garden are to be found dahlias, pansies, roses and gladiola, which all appeared in profusion in his floral exhibits.

Monet bequeathed his "pool garden" which could not capture the full chromatic richness of the real flowers. We, in, of course, must forgive for his painting of water lilies, which he also gave us his garden pond.

Frieda Medina, the Pinoy-ist artist, always included flowers in his paintings. He said, "There are always flowers for those who want to see them."

The Pop artist Andy Warhol created his gruesome commercial screens with his silkscreen paintings of hibiscus (guamuchil) blossoms.

Filipino artists are, of course, not immune to the seduction of flowers. Whether in still life or as decorative elements in figurative paintings, flowers bloom on the brilliantly painted canvases of representational or figurative artists.

To be sure, flowers are the last thing one would find in the works of abstract artists. Were flora and an abstractionist massive such as Romulo Olazo fall in love with the subject of flowers?

At one time, Olazo, having arrived from a Saturday Group painting session of the Pinoy Born in Tagaytay, brought to this with them his artistic interest in flowers. In this case, not by mistake but another time.

It is natural not for the Olazo couple, since unfortunate person on their residence a few days from complements of the Flower Fiesta. It came as if the Flower Fiesta had assisted Olazo's attention to anthuriums, thereby accidentally if indirectly, paving the way for another discourse in the art of Olazo.

KEMUEL D Olazo with Oscar and Mary Lou Hilado, before "Diaphanous Anthuriums" '08

Art of femininity

Previously Olazo had painted a series of works on the subject of Army cutdown. Essentially an abstract artist, Olazo had made a name for himself with his boogie-woogie "Limpahanan" series.

In his set of luminously coloured through the application of several layers of geometric "dissolved" shapes. While the "boogie" paintings were a departure from his abstractions, Olazo nonetheless retained the shape with his signature "diaphanous" technique.

So, too, with the "Anthurium" paintings. At first, the subject was executed realistically as a floral still life. Soon the anthuriums were rendered as a "Diaphanous," flattened but still retaining its distinctly recognizable heart shape.

Was it by serendipity that Olazo chanced upon the shape—the heart—that radiated and fluttered him? Dispensing with the geometrical shapes of circle, square, and rectangle, the artist vividly recognizable shape is that of the heart.

It is the most evocatively emotional shape with the magical power to suggest, evoke and symbolize the universal emotion of love. Indeed, the heart shape has become the graphic emblem of the greatest city in the world, New York. Heck, on the other hand, has to contend itself with the label City of Love.)

The assigned color for the anthurium is, of course, blood-red, for that fluid of life coursing through the veins. Olazo's esthetic, however, disregards the chromatic convention. The artist animates the shapes with a variety of colors, such as pink, turquoise, leafy green.

In the instance of the present suite of works, the artist opted to use white. The hues of background colors, such as tan, siena, sky-blue, stormy green, are not opaque field but involved in interplaying the contours of the anthurium forms.

In all the works, the spikes are strikingly defined as soothing and displayed by the artist as an interesting agent. Like a spangle of sequins, the spikes, which, in fact, differentiate the anthurium from other flowering plants, teasingly twists into view, seemingly dispersed at random, but in an order that cumulatively defines the state of heart-shapes.

Expressive

Altogether, this recent collection of anthurium paintings derives from the compositional format enforced in the "Kanny" series. Based on an internal relation of light that emanates from the inner layer of anthurium "corona," each painting does to an expressive nature, to organic forms, of the classic "Diaphanous" paintings.

The conflation of a monumental theme and a deeply introverted and personal abstract style is what lends a refreshing flexibility to Olazo's continually evolving art. It is worth recalling that way back in the '70s Olazo did some graphic works that used the image of the heart. Appropriately he gave them the evocative title "Creation."

As with the latter, Olazo realized the primacy of the archetype as pure form. Its primordial heart shape is itself a vibrating that was conformed to him on the Saturday Group painting session at the Flower Fiesta.

Where the artist brought focus on careful of anthuriums and personal flora to his solo flights, the correspondence between love and the sculptured is eliminated. He needed a manifest expression.

Those anthurium paintings are the property of Ruel Schein on account.

For further inquiries about "Diaphanous Anthuriums," call Ruel Galleri at 7260334; 0917-5266802; 0917-5266268; e-mail ruelgalleri@gmail@yahoo.com.

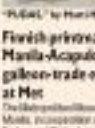
THE ARTIST with Pinoy Gallery's John Valenzuela, exhibit organizer

VISUAL ARTS

"SANDERA Espinosa"

Garcia at Duo

Patricia Maria Garcia's collection of 15 colored watercolor paintings are on exhibit at Duo, redundant (Alcantara, Mandaluyong City. Opening until Nov. 28. Her works feature fruits and flowers.



"PLEaS," by Mark Rambo

Finnish printmakers, Manila-Acapulco galleon-trade exhibit at Met

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila, in cooperation with the Embassy of Finland, is presenting together works of eight contemporary Finnish printmakers in "Contemporary Lithography in Finland." Inscribed on Nov. 8 at the Met Museum's Tak Gallery (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila) tel. 5087878 or mail marketing@metmuseum.ph; www.metmuseum.ph.

The exhibit comprises 30 works by lithographers from the Nordic country—Mikko Alfonthi, Kalle Bang, Martti Mikkola, Kaljaro Kylmänen, Kaarlo Lavonen, Tapani Mäkkonen, Kaisu Sirola and Mikko Tolonen. The exhibit will run until Dec. 10.

Also showing at the exhibit "The Manila Galleon in Acapulco." It translates to the most important trade route between the two of the period and the trade through its entrance-selling designs, select trade goods and Mexican items, such as cosmetics and utensils. The beauty and historical significance of the Manila Galleon is reflected in the Mass of the Virgin of Guadalupe and images of the bronze-skinned Virgin of Guadalupe, considered the Patroness of the Philippine Islands.

'Popstract' at Arena

"Popstract" combines "pop" and "abstract." Abstract expressionists established the foundation for the word, while pop artists searched for traces of this same trauma in the mediated world of advertising, cartoons and consumerism.

"Popstract" is a group show presented by Galleria Arena and features works by Brendan Tuncanong, JP Cuison, Marcos Raya, Jose Parrera, Lyndon Jay Apostol and Glenn Cagandahan. These artists are known for their whimsical figurative, and having a knack for subverting pop culture icons.

Opening opens tomorrow, 6 to 8 p.m., at Galleria Arena, 104 Dagonoy St., Tetuan, Mandaluyong City. It will run until Nov. 20.

BY JP Cuison

Silverlens in Paris photo fest

Paris Photo 2010 will be held in the Grand Palais, Avenue Winston Churchill, 75008 Paris, Nov. 10–14. It showcases photographers of the Silverlens Gallery, like Geremias Geh Geleshin, Jon Lobato and Rachel Rillo.

Bese, Ventura at UP Vargas

"Con Yo Con Dack Ateme Agalo Saalagui Bese is the Family Collection," and Ronald Ventura's "Wubbleing the Wubbleness" will open Nov. 10 in the Jon Molvar Gallery, 2008 UP Vargas Museum (Vargas), Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. 9281801 or mail vargas.museum@up.edu.ph; http://vargas.museum.upd.edu.ph/.

For the commemoration of Bese's 10th-year death anniversary, "Con Yo Con Dack Ateme Agalo Saalagui Bese is the Family Collection" and Ronald Ventura's "Wubbleing the Wubbleness" will open Nov. 10 in the Jon Molvar Gallery, 2008 UP Vargas Museum (Vargas), Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. 9281801 or mail vargas.museum@up.edu.ph; http://vargas.museum.upd.edu.ph/.

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In "Wubbleing the Wubbleness," Ventura responds to the detail of the Guimbitcan, the sacrificial site, covering away from the customary subversive and outrageous imagery. The exhibit runs until Dec. 10.

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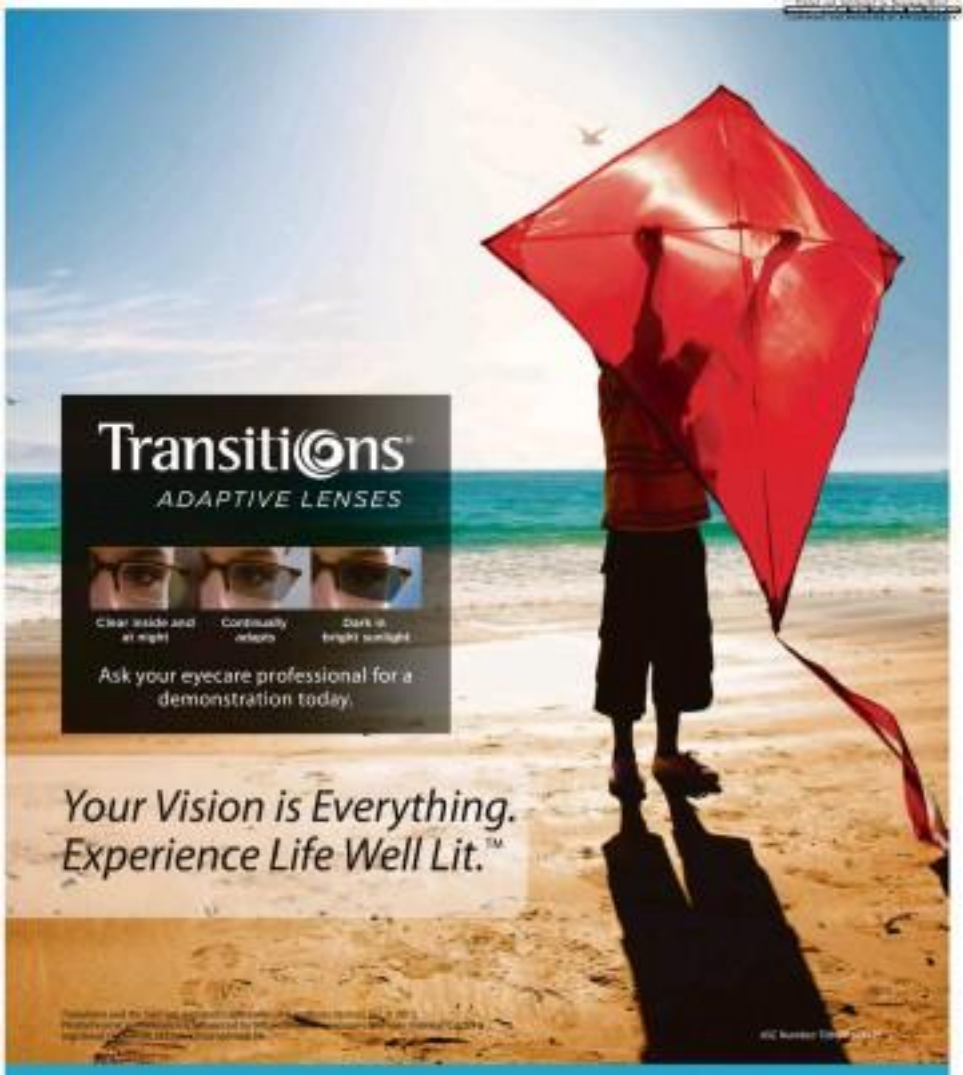

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

On a grand scale: 40 pianos, 300 pianists aged 8-80

Piano Teachers Guild of the Philippines will mount an epic 40th anniversary concert at CCP on Nov. 18

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

EONS AGO, when we were living in Malate, Manila, having been unceremoniously uprooted from our new Tandang home in Quezon City, my mother made my sister and I take up the piano. Our teacher was a friend of the family, a musician named Ida Bayot, whom we called Tita Neng.

Her favorite piece was "Malaguena," and when she attacked the ivory keys it seemed to us kids that this was the most formidable and difficult composition in the world.

I didn't really enjoy the lessons, although my mentor said I had an ear for music, and I was glad when those stopped. Later, when I learned to love classical music, I regretted I did not continue with my piano lessons.

That sense of regret, stronger than ever, resurfaced as I listened to so many young pianists—in jazz, current events, scores, even scores—performing competently for the delectation of the audiences at a recent press conference at the Lyric Hall in San Juan Ong Metro Manila.

The press conference called to announce "Forte@40," a grand concert to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Piano Teachers Guild of the Philippines (PTGP, ptgp.yahoo.com). This will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Nov. 18, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

A sneak preview of the concert will be held at Lucky Chinatown (Ongpin Extension, Binondo, Manila) on Nov. 11, 4 p.m.

Musical multitude

The PTGP was founded on Nov. 2, 1972, by a group of piano teachers led by Lucrecia Kasilag (later National Artist for Music). Their main objective was to uplift teaching and performance standards among their students.

Since then, the guild has enabled top pianists to participate in international music festivals held in Europe, the United States and recently in Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

PTGP membership now stands at 525, and includes prominent musical artists such as Fr. Manuel Maronilla, OSB; Sr. Mary Hyacil Abaja, Jesuvinsky Emmanuel Cruz.

Among the speakers at the press con were Anthony Say, PTGP president; Mary Ann Hopkins, noted pianist and PTGP vice president; and concert pianist Raul Sunico, CCP president and dean of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music.

Drumbeaters for the concert—"a musical multitude never before

CON'D ON NEXT PAGE

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

FRENCH COMPOSER Georges Bizet is Manila's flavor of the month, judging by the simultaneous staging of "Carmen" by the Lyric Opera of the Philippines and its ballet version by Ballet Manila.

Last week saw three Bizet heroines—Camille Lopez Molina, Ana Feleo, Lisa Macuja—"dying" from the fatal knife of José (played with swaying namesake by Abdul Cancilan, Nonoy Cabungo and dancer Rudy de Cleva for the ballet version).

Flowing elsewhere in Bizet's realism, director Louise Guiburn had the Carmen of Velasco-Ong bosom to gentlemen kissing verses with the Bizet heroine even managing to comp the point of Ana Feleo to the seduction scene.

While the staging was stylized, Guiburn got to the bottom of realism with the characters intensely driven, indeed, executive of the opera's atmosphere, theme and environment.

The superb dimensional touch of Guiburn was evident in the three nights of the Bizet opera, complemented by a well conceived choreography by her daughter, actress-dancer Isa Feleo.

Rehearsal master Peter Porteus and Guiburn's direction brought out the realism

BACK TO D2

Bizet Fever in Manila

From page D1

CURTAIN call for "Carmen" with Lisette Oropesa and Cyril

of "Carmen's" music and drama.

At first look, the Carmen of Brito was young and inexperienced and her acting was a standout. The Texas local of Gillespie was a beleaguered one, at once tender and violent, hurt, indeed, full of longing in the "Habanera" aria.

The Rhonda of Kristin Joy Martinez — Rolando Liggayu was of more expressed and demure, with a voice that didn't soar as it should. However, it was a lovely voice, perfect for the part.

It was a class act on the last night of "Carmen," with cultured acting blending with excellent singing by the Carmen of Lisette Oropesa, the Don Jose of Gordon and the genuinely arresting Act III aria ("Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante") of the Micaela of Margarine Gomez-Gianzella.

Lopez-Medina's "Habanera" was lovely and discerning, and Brito had a touch of class in her "Seguidilla." The tense sound of Gordon soared in the evening progressed and made his "Flower Song" haunting and unexplicably touching.

In the four successive performances, beginning with the matinee preview, the ensemble of baritone Noel Antonio singing the "Toreador Song" was solid and consistent. Its exquisite singing rose close to making his Act II aria the centerpiece of the opera.

The Indigo of Jun Jesamilla was at once commendable.

The ensemble chorus under Ludovic Tezedecon and the children's chorus under Christopher Rovic brought out the choral magic of the Bizet score.

In the technical department, the set design of Gino Gonzales made the most of what the theater could offer; the lighting of Monino Duque positively enhanced the dramatic intensity of the opera, especially in the last act when circles of blood-red design encamped the stage in the magic finale.

The size of the opera is, of course, Bizet's music, and the Manila Symphony Orchestra under Arturo Molina made the score come alive with precise and pulsating beat. The orchestra was one with the singers and the music lives of difference.

Sure enough — in the words of John Glenn Sourbat, president of Lyric Opera of the Philippines — the road to "Carmen" did not end in the three performances here — it simply opened new roads that brought the company and the performers to new heights.

Tight and compact ballet

The ballet version, with solid, tested music and arrangement by Ruddian Tchaikovsky, was tight and compact, featuring the Dancers of Lisa Macuja-Elizalde of Ballet Manila. Jean-Pierre Franklin and Michaela of Joelle Isaiga-Fuentes.

The Carmen of Rhonda had dazzled audiences and commendable speed. It was a total contrast to her Giselle and several members the opposite of the playfulness of her Kitri in "Don Quixote." Superb dancing and acting resulted in a highly appealing Carmen without the characterized swashbuckleness.

The big bonus in Ballet Manila's "Carmen" was Rudy de Dios as Don José, whose transformation from jovial soldier to desperate and forlorn suitor added more drama to the ballet version. His acting was real. Just as he maximizes jete-dropping and jeté he was also a genius of a partner in this series of pas de deux.

Of the four Jesse during the weekend, Jo Dico was the most intense and the most brilliant actor, and to think that he had no hour to deliver so his technique was dancer.

In the ballet version, the "Habanera," "Seguidilla," "Flower" aria and "Toreador Song" became dazzling solo variations and fourth-making pas de deux in this ballet favorite show, capitalized by Eric Cruz, the first artistic director of Ballet Manila.

If Lyric Opera had a fantastic chorus, the corps de ballet of Ballet Manila lived up to the part in good dancing ensemble as they did in "Giselle" and "Don Quixote."

And as it happened that three Filipino Carmens died during the weekend in the same Bizet masterpiece.

Bravo Macuja. "Indomitable actor, Carmen' is at adult ballet with a PG rating. My own kids found the part which Monica gets stabbed. I have died' many times onstage in many different roles, but Carmen is the best because she goes down laughing as she steps off it all."

3 Filipina Carmens died during the weekend in the same Bizet masterpiece

CAMILLE Lopez Molina (c) Abdul Candarin "Carmen"

'Art 2 Art' announces November episodes

CONGREGATIONS ON literature, music, photography, film and theater are to meet for Rotterian and visual arts, the November of "Art 2 Art," hosted by Lisa Macuja.

Produced by the Manila Broadcasting Company, "Art 2 Art" airs every Sunday, 5:30-6 p.m., on DZMB (909 the on the 909 band), and can be viewed simultaneously via IBTV on cable television and on the Internet through DZMB Live Streaming.

"Art 2 Art" recently received the Hall Legacy from the Catholic Mass Media Awards as Best Educational Radio Program.

On Nov. 11, the focus is on piano music as representatives of the Piano Teachers' Guild group by the group's president, Aida Sanz. Ballet member Loreche Bradford and young pianist Kyle Li share the joys of playing and teaching piano to the group premiere for its 40th anniversary concert, "Twenty-40."

On Nov. 18, "Art 2 Art" pays tribute to the late actor, director and writer Joe Estrella, and Mario Ortiñas, who passed away last June, act in his play, "Emperadores," on-location, resulted for production. Founding front curator director of Tanghalang Filipino, which recently mounted a successful run of "Emperadores," gives insights on this man and the artist.

On Nov. 18, photographers, multimedia artist and lead vocalist Wivel Benavente shows tips in doing art photography and how she balances her time among her many interests. A recipient of this year's CCP Thirteen Artists Award, she recently came back from Spain where she finished her masters' degree in Fine art photography.

For inquiries, e-mail art2artradio@yahoo.com.ph. On Facebook, check out the account Art2artradio or log on for updates on "Art 2 Art" episodes and Ballet Manila performances.

LISA Macuja-with photographer and multimedia artist Wivel Benavente, Piano Teachers Guild president Audrey Sanz, young pianist Kyle Li, and ballerinas Loreche Bradford and Jeanlee Lourdes Quiñez

On a grand scale: 40 pianos, 300 pianists...

From page D1

NINE YEAR-OLD Hazred Ang

...ional" (at least in the Philippines)—were justified in their praise. For the concert will feature 40 pianos—18 grand pianos and 20 upright pianos...and over 200 pianists aged 8-80. They will be all be playing in the same time, of course.

Musical genres

Five genres of music will be represented: Baroque, classical, 20th century, pop and Filipino. And many big-name concert pianists will participate. The concert is expected to be complete from two and [illegible]

Transcribed symphonies by Mozart and Haydn will have 40 pianos and 40 players, respectively. The "Hary Janos" Suites by Zoltan Kodaly requires 120 pianists, with one per piano.

There will be a [illegible] for Chopin, a concertino on [illegible] tunes, and a pop medley arranged by Ryan Cayabyab.

The piece de resistance will be "Pista Kanong Pianist" (Golden Boulage) by Augusto Espina, which, as noted by [illegible] the press con, is "the finale and the most complex work [of the evening] as it is a compilation of Filipino works that were handed down to the succeeding generation and which we will be handing down to the next generation."

It seems clear that they [illegible] pianists, as Haydn, [illegible] to [illegible] surrounded everyone by composing [illegible] Mozart's difficult Five Dances in Antwerp.

Ashdaw [illegible] the Carol wanting up."

PTCP PRESIDENT Audrey Sanz (Mark Ann Espina (right)) with student

UP performing groups win at int'l fests

By Walden Ang
Contributor

UP CONCERT Chorus (UPCC) has won three awards on the international scene: 1st Prize in the Folk category of the Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantonigros in Sc, Spain; and the gold diplomas and the Audience Prize (People's Choice). Second as the Sth Concertante International Choir Festival in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary.

In Spain, the group sang "Kadayi" (Hray Creation) "Dugin" (arranged by Isidro Dolaunan) and "Ilay Sandugan" (Rodolfo Dolaunan) for the Folk category.

The contingent had 28 singers and one pianist. The choral, celebrating its 50th anniversary, was led by director Ariodne Aviones.

In Hungary, under the baton of president and assistant conductor Emmanuel de Leon Jr, the group sang "Ama Namin" (John Paul Pamintuan), "Jesus is a Ballad" (Zoltan Kodaly), and "Ilay Gandangan."

For the Folk concert, the basis for the Audience Prize, Aviones and de Leon led the choir in singing "Gabay Ati" (Ruben Pedroscon), "Dugin" and "Kadayi."

At the gala concert and awarding ceremony, UPCC performed a tribute to the King of Pop, Elvis de Leon, where it received a rousing standing ovation from the audiences and festival participants of nearly 2,000 people from all over the world. "Aves Ladies" Aviones.

The group had performed in several stores in the UK before joining the festivals in Spain. From September to October it will give performances in Switzerland, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Moldova and Singapore.

Fitness

UP Aves Ateneo Ensemble, also a struggle to raise funds, made it after all in the Festival Internacional de Musica Universitaria in Brest, France.

It was the 3rd time a Filipino group had joined the festival. Under musical director Edru Martinez, the group was composed of 27 singers, all singers of the Strings and Chamber Music Department of the UP College of Music.

Before the festival, Aves performed twice in Paris, at Saint Germain-des Church, organized by the Philippine Catholic Mission in France, and at Unesco Studio Building, hosted by the Philippine Embassy in France.

After the festival, Aves also performed in Geneva, Switzerland, at Notre Dame Church.

Robert Sobe, Robert's vocalmates and the city's cultural head, said the group "has fine musicianship, [is] undoubtedly talent, and brought in the festival something unique and lively."

Aves's repertoire included the Tradicorday Serenade for strings, Serenade for Strings by Elgar, and Cantores Cantate by Gardel. Filipino masterpieces Kundiman from the Children's Quartet by Buenaventura and Hamo-nanos's Pantaste Cuyeto were also performed.

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SING@NING

Manila Pen holds its own 'Idol' contest

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

A STUDENT FROM Iloilo who was bullied in school for being half-African-American, an engineering student who won an illegitimate child, and a Communication Arts graduate from Ateneo are vying to win a new talent contest.

The Peninsula Manila has embarked on a unique corporate social responsibility program that not only aims to discover Filipino talents but also hopes to answer a younger crowd to the hotel.

"The Pen wants to contribute to educating the youth. It wants to tap on the unsung musicality of the Filipinos," said musical director Leonel Torres.

Targeting college students, the Singal-Ning Ultimate Voice Music Competition has attracted 249 contestants who underwent a stringent elimination process.

The contest involves several love teams but the contestants can make their own musical arrangements and play for an intimate venue such as Salon de Ning.

"Some contestants were good enough because they learned the songs by ear, they studied and tried sang it. We are looking for originality and their use for music. In other competitions, contestants merely sing. Here, they make their own arrangements," said Torres.

Sing@Ning consisted of three elimination rounds focusing on Original Pilipino music in the genres of soft rock, ballad and jazz. Each batch had each vocal coaches as Ferrol Plaridade Thompson from The Company; Jovgen Magno; and Camille Lopez Molato, whose classical training helped them to manage their breathing in the ballads.

JOSELLE Feliciano, Darwin Bolden Jr. and Rafael Santos (L-R)

Finalists

On Nov. 4, Gianell Bolden Jr., 20; Rafael Santos, 29; and Joselle Feliciano, 21, will compete in the final round. Each contestant will have their 15 minutes in the spotlight singing three songs of their choice. The second half will challenge them to interpret a Filipino folk song in a contemporary arrangement. They've already selected "Sisikat," "Pen Duy de Sampen" and "Bituin Kali." All the songs will be backed up by a full band and a conductor.

"All three have their special talents. Gianell is good on R&B and soul. Rafi is a balladeer. He's also the most versatile. Both are tenors. Joselle is suited for jazz and bossa nova. She has a high-pitch voice," shouted Torres.

When Bolden, a Business major in University of Lyceum in Iloilo City, joined a singing contest in America, a neighbor of his father told him about his homicide. Although Bolden didn't make it, his biggest reward was reuniting with his father.

Gutierrez, a Computer Engineering student from the University of the Philippines, said his father had three families. When the father fell ill and could no longer look after his children, Gutierrez turned high-school students and squared computers to pay for his education.

Feliciano, half-red from Mindoro and Economics to Communication Arts to pursue her passion. She also got a scholarship to study voice with Trumpets Pita Ebay.

Coaches

The finalists are being coached by Pinky Marquez.

Thespians Ruben Ueda, Joey Alvarez, Jon Bongco and talent manager Sofie Rodis said in judging the championship round. The Grand Prize is a scholarship at Spotlight Artists Course, Iloilo Rubben Preserve, ₱150,000; and a three-month contract to perform at the Pen's night spot, Salon de Ning.

Alexandria, the other coordinator will participate in the backup singers. In December, they will be part of the Peninsula's Christmas ensemble.

Torres underscored the importance of education credentials. He said he wanted to uplift the image of singers in lounges by showcasing college students serious about getting their diplomas.

"Sing@Ning is their way of touching the lives of young people and how they can contribute to the progress of Filipino music. The contestants have gotten out their comfort zone. Over time, they matured as individuals, both musically and emotionally."

Although questions were raised about why an international chain such as the Pen would highlight Filipino songs, Torres said: "If you go to Paris, you hear French songs. As a foreigner, I appreciate that. For Filipinos, it's a medium to appreciate their own music and to see how to can be enjoyed by other individuals from other parts of the world."

Iraqi musician to hold concert

THE EMBASSY of the Republic of Iraq, in cooperation with the Spouses of the Head of Mission and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, is staging "An Oud Concert: The Spirit of Ramzi Muhsen" at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater).

Ramzi Muhsen performs on the oud as a guitarist which combines ancient methods with his own original modern compositions. He is the only musician to have created his eight-string oud that expanded the instrument's musical range, giving it dynamic versatility.

For tickets, call the *CCP Box Office* at tel. (632) 834 or (632) 700, or ticketworld at tel. 891.9999.

UP performing groups . . .

From page D2

ri Bellini), the audience gave a prolonged ticky applause and standing ovation," says Ruben Ueda, head of the UP Diliman Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts. "UP Arts had to reciprocate the warm reception by participating in the Singapore Festival."

The organizers invited UP to return to consider another concert on the last day of the festival."

Taiwan

University of the Philippines' Department of English and Comparative Literature's production of "Tyrone Macbeth" was performed at National Taiwan University, Taipei, for the 6th Conference of the PEFL Multi-purpose Stream.

The production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" premiered last year and features video projections as part of its staging, thus Tyrone, instead of the word "Scotia" in the title.

The conference theme "Shakespeare across Worlds" aimed to explore how Shakespeare had been translated in various forms of media.

"The production's use of film fitted the conference theme superbly," says cast member Ricky Abad.

The reunion cast had seven scenes in multiple roles, with direction by Amihan Arao. Choreography by Jayb Ick Indio also played Lady Macbeth's awkward devotion to Malcolm Fraser, and video design by Wynne David.

"The show was received very well. The organizers were pleased, and look forward to more Philippine participation in the future. The biggest achievement, I think, was that Scottish Macbeth' show fired the Philippines' are the Asian country that could do Shakespeare in English well. The acting was praised. It was deemed passionate."

For details of UP Concert Chorus' touring performances, visit www.upmusicdept.org or call 8254561 to 63(8306), (9027-4.294625) or (9917-6205739.

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Bulacan's Teatro Dulabay stages 'Exodo'

BULACAN'S Teatro Dulabay will stage "Exodo," a musical adaptation of the Old Testament's story of the Exodus. The play will be held at the Sto. Niño Parish Church multipurpose hall in Meycauayan, Bulacan, on Nov. 9-10, 16-17, at 7:30 p.m.

Teatro Dulabay is a small parish-based theater group is composed of young men and women who share the passion of performing in front of a live audience.

"Exodo," directed by theater actor Christian Vedad, is about the Hebrews under the harsh leadership of Egypt's pharaoh Seti. It also tells the story of Moses and his journey in saving the Hebrews from Ramses, Seti's son and successor. The musical is Vedad's stage adaptation in the Filipino translation of "The Prince of Egypt" by Vinci Nicolas.

For details, contact Ericelle Pita at tel. (02)2 3903143 or Marivel Sanchez at tel. (0916) 3891260. You can also visit Teatro Dulabay's Facebook fan page.

AT LEFT, (seniors) Lachica as Moses and junior Dalmacio as Ramses; above, the cast of "Exodo."

GROUP with Miss Hagan

Kids to join popular ballet

THIS YEAR the Philippine Ballet Theater will give members of the Philippine Society for Orphan Dancers (PSOD) a chance to participate in its staging of "The Nutcracker."

PSOD is a nonprofit organization that advances the welfare and care of children affected with rare diseases.

PBT artistic director Ben Ismayao says: "I believe everyone should have the chance to perform and enjoy dance. It is very heartwarming to watch the kids with rare disorders dance with our PBT dancers."

PBT's mission is to provide high-quality dance training and professional highcaliber performance opportunities in a nurturing atmosphere to Filipino dancers of all ages and abilities.

Specially priced Family Packs consisting of four orchestra center tickets and coupons are available for purchase in person or by calling the PBT Office at tel. (02)4864648 or 0917. 5063077.

Performances are on Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.

PBT Nutcracker Ballet last year

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Is Landay the new Grisham, Turow?

By Rual S. De Vera

In a standout novel, former lawyer William Landay asks how far will a father go to save his son, in the gripping 'Defending Jacob'

THRILLERS are by far the most popular form of American fiction, as its censors are among the most prolific of authors.

The legal or courtroom thriller is a very distinct version of the thriller, and the best of them books set, unsurprisingly, written by lawyers themselves, standing out because of realism and outstanding suspense.

Among those scriveners who write are John Grisham (1955's "The Firm") and Scott Turow (1990's "Presumed Innocent"), authors who translate their knowledge in legal matters into unbelievable grasp of the law as applied in fiction but are also able to spin mind-boggling imaginary storylines once outside reality.

You may now add a new name to that august group: William Landay. Though he already is the author of two previous novels, it is Landay's newest book that catapults him to such revered company. Like the others, the Yale graduate and Boston native knows his stuff—because he's almost writing about himself.

Family catastrophe

Like his previous two novels, "Mission Flats" and "The Strangler," the new novel "Defending Jacob" (Delacorte Press, New York, 2012, 421 pages) is set in Landay's home state of Massachusetts.

Andy Barber is the successful and driven Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in Middlesex County. He lives in suburban Newton with wife Laurie and teenage son Jacob.

One day, the body of Ben Rifkin, one of Jacob's schoolmates, is found stabbed to death. Barber handles the case, applying all of his professional role.

But there is something off about the case, and Barber hears rumors about a conflict between the dead boy and his son. Alarmed, Barber searches his son's rooms and, to his shock, finds a knife. Keeping the knife a secret, he finds out he has been removed from the case—because Jacob's fingerprint was found on Rifkin's body.

What follows is a professional and personal catastrophe for the Barbers, as he is forced to go on leave, his case now handled by an ambitious colleague who would want nothing more than see Barber fail—and his family ostracized as his son is to be tried in court. He struggles to communicate with Jacob, who has turned sullen, even as he holds fast to his son's being innocent.

Meanwhile, Barber admits to his wife a long-kept shameful secret that could destroy his family.

What follows is a page-turning, heart-wrenching, mind-boggling, suspenseful, and ultimately satisfying story that will keep you guessing until the very last page.

Landay writes about the case with a lawyer's precision, and his characters are fully realized, with Barber's voice as the narrator of the story. Landay's writing is taut, and he knows how to keep the reader's attention, as you are riveted waiting to know what happens with the case and with the Barbers as a family

Internat'l literary hotshots coming to Manila

CRIME TO Read Lit Director on Nov. 14-18 at the Ayala Museum to participate in the provocative annual soirée that is a highlight of the Philippine Book Development Month.

In November of each year, the National Book Development Board (NBDB) hosts nourishing festivities, which include book fairs, contests for students and teachers, conferences, lectures, and literary soirés. All of them are participated in by the country's literati.

Don't miss out on the chance to meet and mingle with the highly acclaimed writers from different countries who are expected to fly in to as an, said the writers festival.

Dinky Soliman is a professor at the University of the Philippines. Her prose works include "Sang Ito Nigiri"; "The Right of Flames, Becoming Abigail"; "Grandland"; and "Masters of the Board."

Her poetry collections are "Gandili, ang"; "There Are No Stones for Bed"; "Send Me Back to the Cathedral: Long Poems"; "Hands Washing Water"; "Ang Woman"; "Elephant's Lot"; and "Kolokoy Republic."

He holds a BA in English, an MA in Garden and Culture from the University of London, an MA in English and a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. He is the recipient of the PEN USA Freedom to Write Award, the Prince Claus Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a California Arts Award, a Whiting Writer Legacy Award, a PEN Beyond The Margins Award, the PEN Hemingway Book Prize, a Guggenheim Award.

Workshop founder

Tim Tomlinson is a fictionist, essayist and author of the popular "The Portable MFA in Creative Writing." He currently resides in London, where, he says, few people know he's American until he opens his mouth.

He is the fiction editor of the webzine Dossier, and recipients of his short stories appear or are forthcoming in "PN1," "BOOGLIOLOO," "Medulla Review," "Litmoments" and "3:AM."

Tomlinson is the fiction editor of the website Dzeit. Recent work appears or is forthcoming in "Pank Magazine," "The New Post," "The New York Quarterly," "Fault," "Prick of the Spindle," "Salt River Review"; and in the anthology "Long Island Noir."

He was a featured poet in Santiago Perez "Blue Jungle, with Fredericks," in "Best Absolute" was nominated for Best of the Net 2011.

Horlinda Babio

Award-winning writer Horlinda Babio grew up in Albay Philippines, is the host of an active webzine, which figures prominently in her writing and performances. As a child her main interest was painting, but at age 13 she began writing poetry because "painting with words" was cheaper.

She has a novel, "Batanes Heart" (composed of short stories, drama and poems. Her plays have been produced on stage and radio in nearby, the Philippines, Spain, US, France, China, Thailand and the Slovak Republic. She has performed some of her works as theater, dance and music. Horlinda has a BA, summa cum laude from the Ateneo de Naga University of Legaspi and an MA, Magnumma from the University of Santo Tomas.

For 18 years, Babio taught Literature and English at Philippine universities before leaving for Australia in 2000. She actively guest. She completed a doctorate of creative arts at the University of Wollongong where she now teaches Creative Writing. She lives in Wollongong, which relieves her first home; a city nestled between the mountains and the Pacific.

Kris Gallardo's study includes celebrated young adult novels, like "Cow is a 1992" and "Bliss," as well as the immensely popular "Jake" series for younger readers. Most recently, he was acclaimed in India for his novel "Selena," described by Rising India Books as a work of "short genius" that "gently pushes the boundaries of language."

Previously, Spillman teamed with Jen Bosier to create the popular "Seventy Kids" books for primary school children. His other published work includes poetry, literary books, essays, reviews. And sports and travel writing. Kris has edited and co-edited five edited tome of writing.

Crime fiction editor

Crime fiction editor Juliet Grames is from Brooklyn, New York. She is an author and critic whose topics for John Press, an independent book publisher based in New York City focusing her specialties are memory and crime stories, and detective narratives.

Some of her best titles are the New York Times bestseller "The Boy in the Suitcase," the multi-awarded book "Invisible Murder"; "The Ghosts of Belfast"; "Collusion"; "Stolen Souls"; and "Soulless." As different times in her life, Grames has been a bookseller, a literature, a blueberry farmer, a barista and a custom model hologram artist.

Host David McNeely was, until 2008, a director of the HK International Literary Festival, having been involved since its inception in 2001. He is one of the organizers of local HK poetry group "Elected" and has performed in the group's popular "Cityspeaks" 2005 and 2006. He has taught at the HK University's "Morning Poetry" initiative in 2002 and 2004.

David has in recent years been the poetry commissioning editor for Chameleon Press. He was formerly literary international literary festivals including The Shanghai International Literary festival and the Singapore Writer's Festival. His collection of poetry, "Accidental Occidental," was published in 2005. He is working on a new collection of poetry.

Read Lit District fee is P2,000 for three days or P800 for a one-day pass. Senior citizens get a 20-percent discount. Student fee is P1,500 for three days or P600 for a one-day pass.

Call Camille de la Rosa at 8926205, Chin Cayton at 8921805 local 32, 0917-5612413; e-mail clayton@philcandlibrary.org.ph. Early registration is recommended. Deadline is Nov. 10.

Chinese-Filipino poet with a heart for home

By Shirley O. Lua
Correspondent

IN 2008, ONE of the five awardees of Conrad Hamburger Magad in Bulagtas was a small, unassuming man who received the Manuel Bakhtinov trophy with quiet delight. He wrote under the name "Yan H" or "Cloud Chaser."

For its creative touch, "For his stellar achievement in Chinese poetry that reflects the Chinese-Filipino experience in the Philippines, as well as the unbreakable ties of overseas Chinese to their roots and memories. His eight books of poetry, variously published in several languages apart from English, show his still unrelenting devotion in his each subtle finding consummately in the deep but universal experience of humanity, nature, and beauty."

The big prestigious honor, given by the Ateneo ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Unpil), is conferred up on distinguished writers who publish in any Philippine language.

For his win the panelists of Jaime Bong Chong Sia Bone on April 2011, 1942, in Manila, received his BS Architecture from Far Eastern University.

At 17, he released his first poetry collection, "Mellanholic Scars." He published seven other volumes: "Spring Days in Autumn"; "The Rainbow Chaser"; "River Dune"; "The Wild Plant"; "In Light of Poetry and Photography"; "150 Poems of You & Me"; and "The Wild Plant and Others," a bilingual anthology.

He was the literary editor of *World News*, one of the Chinese-Philippine dailies, for over 30 years, and a board member of the Huaqiaong Minhe Art Foundation.

So, belongs to the generation of poets who write with a consistent sense of one's position as Chinese-Filipino. Their poetry confronts the discovery of an imagined homeland. Their voice unravels verses lamenting a presumed loss and wrestling with unspeakable yearnings. Metaphoric acts thus become a way of recovering what has been dispossessed from their being, of merging lost shine of ambiguity and displacement.

Such sentiments are evident in Sia's poem "Home": "I regret/ I completely starks when slipped to/ to the cowchaper is normal/ com only with, not possibly/ send what you haven't seen/ to all people/ I put/ points to see/ the lichen land's glacial/ white snow."

The hopeless act of "starting" snowflakes, or the sheer foolishness of it, does not deter the poet from enacting a figurative performance. This is for sake of awakening the depth of his sorrow and the strength of his desire.

In his prose poem "Turbulence," the poet witnesses the passing of ages—of golden harvest, of blazing sun, of tearful departures—which he likens to surging tsunamis.

He sighs: "I dare not face again the turbulence of the sea. I gaze at the flowing white foam trailing

JAMES Yong Chuon Ho

from the stern, vanishing without a trace. A lone gull flies over my head. Suddenly, I have a desire for flight."

Sia's signature poem is "The Wild Plant," which illustrates the disinterested condition of an overseas Chinese. Here is a fine translation in Filipino by Joaquin by added "Ligaw ng Halamang":

May dahon/
Wala nanaong ranghas,
May sanghay,
Wala nanaong sapot.

May ugat,
Wala nanaong kapas.

Ay! Isang ari ng ligaw na halaman,
Ang pangalay
Ayn Chinc, Tsina sa dugong dumpel

Commenting on the poems published on "The Poetry Sky Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Poetry, 2000-2006," edited by Yolan Han, Tom Chandler, the Poet Laureate Emeritus of Rhode Island and professor of Creative Writing at Bryant University observes: "The Chinese mind strikes me as inherently poetic, even when expressed in the form of conventional prose."

Moreover, the Chinese language, comprising of ideograms, is inherently symbolic.

Chandler cites Sia's poem, "A Heart for Home," as an example. The poem's opening verses reflect remarkable perspective. "Why does flight limit itself to looking down/ Clouds will melt into tears/ Falling, sprinkling, seeping inherently bathed earth..."

In spite of the carefulness of its tone, the poem speaks with emotional vigor and contemplative power.

James Sia passed away on Aug. 9. His soul set sail toward a particular shore—the Homeland—as he had envisioned in his poetry.

"Then the parents were crying / in sternland, a 'free' As if in all on/ hours/ Spreading sun, onward heaven, a thousand hands". ("A Heart for Home").

Is Landay the new Grisham, Thurow?

From page B1

in remarkable detail and paces his pages to imitate real-life docket drama. Instead of being faceless mannequins, the lawyers, officers and related characters are well-crafted characters. The case itself reaches out to non-American legal topics such as the so-called "murder gang."

The most remarkable character is that of author himself, a man now faced with everything he feared but also determined to fix all that is wrong. He surprised, smart but impatient, Landay's biggest weakness is that he loses his not unconditionally and cannot believe when he did what he is accused of. This makes him perfect in a narrative, because the reader soon realizes there is almost nothing he will not do for his son. The question is how far will he go to defend both.

The reason why this reader is because Landay spent eight years as an ADA in Middlesex County. We, he reasonably held the same job as his protagonist—and the familiarity with the material shines through.

Beyond the legal victim/attack, Landay successful because of a killer reading that no one will see coming, but makes all the sense in the world once it happens.

It's a subtle yet shocking ending that makes "Defending Jacob" a standout legal thriller readers will be talking about long after the reading. Finally establishing that William Landay knows what he's writing about, especially if it takes place, as he claims, of what happens, in the reader courtroom.

Available in hardcover from Mainland Book Store.

Unicef's online auction raises over P3M for children

UNICEF PHILIPPINES' online Auction for Action held last month raised over P3 million for programs for poor children.

The annual online auction is a collaboration between Unicef and Stephen Dirstin Pate. Unicef special advocate for children, to bring on famous and design supporters for promotion and promotion of the the rights of children.

This year's auction had twice as many items as the first year, held in May 2011. Over 70 Filipino artists and designers brought together by Pate donated paintings, sculptures, furniture and jewelry items, including famous names such as Ruben Ofilna, Juvenal Sanch, Kenneth Cobonpue, Manuel Baldemor, Imma Avanzi, Kawayan Dela and Pier Bellpuna.

Well-known pieces such as "Fly Up" from artist Michael Cacnio's bamboo series got the highest bid at P215,000 while Elmer Borlongan's pastel on paper painting, "Gateway," fetched over P80,000 from a starting bid price of P25,000.

Jerome Bendin's "Indo Cantorera," an oil on canvas, was the most lively contested item, with a total of 63 bids from other buyers.

"My heart is overflowing with gratitude for all the friends, artists and supporters who participated in our auction," said Pate. "In order to maximize funds going to children, are didn't have

"COMBO" by Elmer Borlongan

a big, live event this year but instead worked through online promotion and harnessing the power of social media. Filipinos all across the country and across the world responded and helped children in the same time," said Angela Travis, Unicef communications and fundraising chief. "Everyone who participated in our auction can be assured that through Unicef, all the proceeds will go to education, health and nutrition, protection and emergency programmes for children who need it the most. Thank you again to everyone who helped make our second online auction a success!"

Visit www.unicef.ph.

Pantoja-Hidalgo's 10th book of nonfiction released

IN HER 10TH book of creative nonfiction, award-winning author and academic Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo offers an intimate look at life and work—with poems that dance her presence as a leading writer of nonfiction.

"Stella and Other Friendly Ghosts" (UST Publishing House, 2012) is a collection of 38 essays culled from the author's "blue" notebooks (which the UST Center for Creative Writing devotes carefully numbered "might not always actually be blue"). These book "diaries" (which replaced her plans of actual blogging) and lectures, a sampling of how Hidalgo... woman, writer, academician—views life and all that comes with it.

"I am simply fortunate by how life is changing for all of us," she writes in the book's preface, and expounds on this fact through her musings about the changing times—from the palatine required quills and typewriters to Facebook and the "instant gratification" that have people turn it.

Her stories on the changing times bleed throughout the collection, a half of which she calls "travel memories," with "nostalgic recollection of vanished seasons, the undiminished sense of wonder, and the abiding love of art and Literature," as dictated by how she decided to divide the book—in two successions aptly titled "The Passing Scene" and "Art and Literature."

With this latest collection, Hidalgo, who considers herself "primarily as a weaver of tales," does not only offer a sneak peek into her mind palace, but actually indulges her readers with accounts that are drawn from her heart.

"Stella and Other Friendly Ghosts" is available in leading bookstores and the UST Publishing House store. Call 7313022.

Workshop on getting one's book published

PALANCA AWARD winner and National Book Award finalist Gadelosan Arcangel Ingoma will conduct the lecture "The Next Chapter: An Author's Journey on How to Publish a Book," on Nov. 10, 2-4 p.m., Ortigas Foundation Library (libraries.dev.Ortigas Center, Pasig; visit www.ortigasfoundation.com).

The talk, designed for those who are yet to publish their first book, will centers on exploring mainstream and alternative forms of publication. It is also for beginning writers who wish to take their writing to the next level—publication of their own works in book or anthology form, how to prepare and first time a book manuscript and address processes attendant to copyright and ISBN procurement. Workshop fee is P500.

Alluring book on Palawan launched

PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE Tapan "showed a perfect sense of timing and composition in the way he captured the rare small human subjects in the beautiful scenes, and that totally made the shot," noted judge Tim Laman in references in the photo titled "Into the Green Zone." The stunning photo, which gained worldwide accolade, bagged the grand prize in the Plants Category of the 2011 National Geographic Photo Contest.

This same winning image, which bested 21,000 entries all over the world, happens to be the cover of the bewitching 288 page coffee-table book "Into the Green Zone: Palawan Islands."

"Dedicated to the Filipinos and the Islanders, this is likewise a tribute to Palawan's pristine grandeur as a province and a celebration of its compelling powers to put humankind back in perspective," said French national geophysicist/explorer Louis-Paul Imbault, one of the proud publishers of the book.

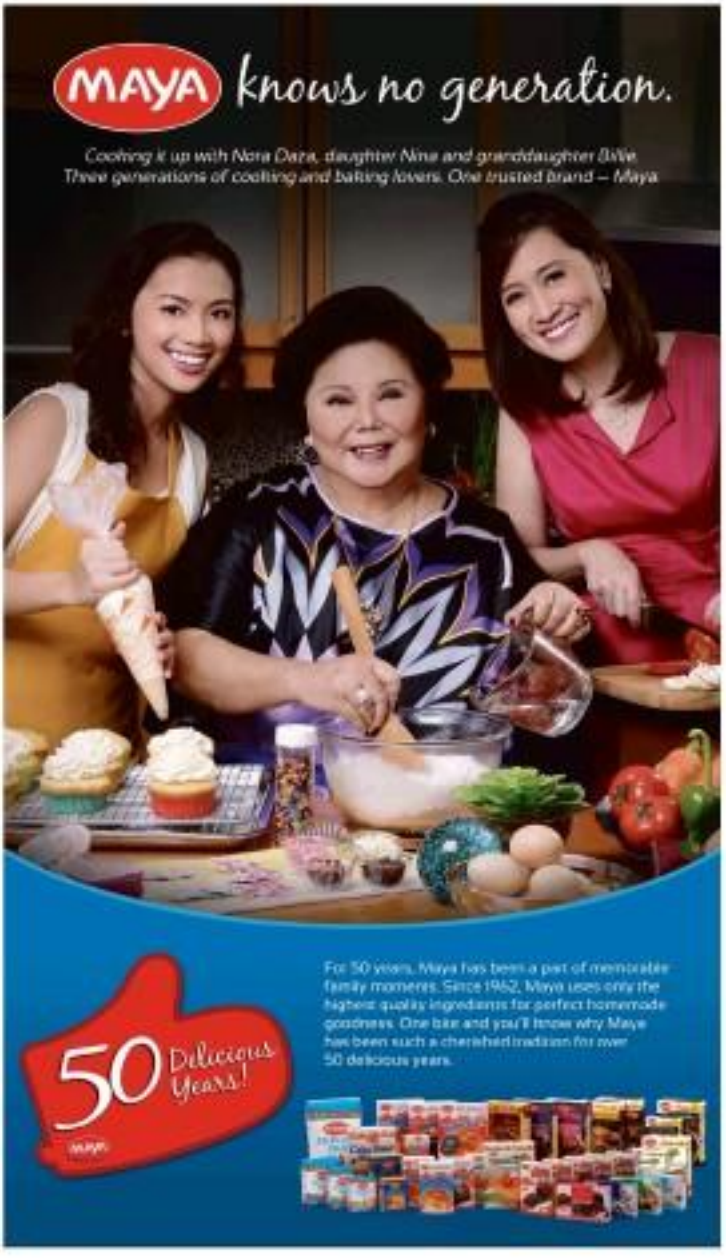
"I look back with fondness to wandering for the first time in Palawan in 1979 and remain enthralled to this day as it retains its unlimited and largely undiscovered charm," he added.

According to Imbault and unknown to many, cherry blossom trees, locally named balayong, grow in Palawan...the very same kind affecting plenty of people's eyes, emotion and discovery and unparalleled beauty.

"The book is truly significant in current times because Palawan remains one of the most preserved areas in the country and we hope that through it, we can create awareness at the same time," he said.

The book is co-published by Simon Leth of New Zealand and Hong Kong-based designer Eugene Ong. Striking successful in capturing Palawan's natural beauty, it contains six chapters: "An Ancient Archipelago"; "Habitat and Wildlife"; "Land of Safe Harbor"; "People and Cultures"; "Environment and Industry"; and "Into Modern Times."

Call Asiamix Productions Inc. at 1817 Burlbank Center, 340 Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 8156933, visit www.asiamixphilippines.com or www.asiamixproductions.com.



Anthology of winning entries to Doreen Fernandez food writing tilt launched

"SAVOR THE Word," a compilation of winning essays from the prestigious Doreen Gamboa-Fernandez (DGF) Food Writing Competition, was recently launched at the Old Megamall Atrium, with some of the country's top foodies and food writers in attendance.

The event was a project of Anvil Publishing, Inc., the biggest publisher in the Philippines, and the Intramuros Wine and Food Society (IWFS) Manila Ladies Branch, the world's most renowned gastronomic society together with SM Megamall.

The book, edited by writers Maya Ilena-Romero Danon's novel, Mickey Fenix and Nikka Sta. Maria, features the winning essays of the annual competition, whose theme is traditional Philippine food. It also contains excerpts from Fernandez's writings on food, plus a glossary and recipes by foodie Mel Fernandez.

The title of the book, "Savor the Word," is from Fernandez's essay "Writing about Food: Savor the Word, Swallow the World," her introduction to her book "Tikim: Essays on Philippine Food and Culture."

The DGF Food Writing Competition honors the legacy of the late acclaimed food writer. It's aimed "foster challenge contributors to discover the emotion, the humor, and the significance of culinary experiences. It is the country's first nationwide food writing contest.

Fernandez was a fearless and tireless renowned for her works on Filipino food culture. She served as the moderator of the cherished newspaper and head of the Communication Department at the Museo de Manila University where she taught English. She was also a regular columnist for the Philippine

Daily Inquirer.

Fernandez was one of the founding members of the IWFS. The competition is a tribute to her efforts to have inducted Filipino chefs by bestowing them with her works.

Nestor, Nenit and Mr. Mario passed the event, along with Nestor's award Winner Eryl Yason, chef Claude Tayag, Anvil Publishing general manager Emma Baltazar, foodie Mel Fernando, Mangudlino Mercado of Manila Atelier Corp. Adrian, and musician Dong Abay.

Book celebration came in full force, as did the winners of this year's DGF Competition, which has the theme "Hinugot" or dessert. Ledlie Lacanilla for "The Day My Mother Learned to Make Leche Flan"; Elizabeth Quintos for "A Hundred Manggay in a Bottle"; Zel Zalamea for "Redrawing Leche Flan"; Guillermo Rimito Jr. for "Mayong Sampaloc"; and Aya Bethel for "Serving Nanay."

SM officials led by SM vice president for marketing and communications group Millie Dizon were on hand to welcome them.

Book launch partners included The International Wine & Food Society Manila Chapter, SM Megamall, CJ Classic Cuisine Philippines and Mabuhay Book from where the book is available.

InterContinental Hotel Manila and The Manila Peninsula provided the catering.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Erwin G. Velarde

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Tell us your feedback: Inquirer.net home page/My Message to ABC

Chorus girls

FILMMAKER Pepot Gallaga said show band Magic & Magic recorded the "Morning Chorus" which accompanied the famous morning buzzards scene in the 1982 epic "Oro, Plata, Mata." He said that singers Evi Cepeda, Angeli Daigdigan and Dr. Jo Jo Reyes were dismissed by director Doris "Madame Butterfly." "They thought it would be easy, but they were mistaken."
—Reynold Sun Elargo Jr.

DID YOU KNOW...

From 'idiot box' to national painkiller

By Jose Javier Reyes
Columnist

THERE is little argument about what has become of Philippine commercial television. What was branded "idiot box" has evolved into what could now be labeled "national anesthesia." Entertainment, for all it's worth, has become a mass effective sedative or painkiller for the masa.

Creative and marketing geniuses of the broadcast industry explore every conceivable means to make daily life seem bearable through exercises in escapism, lapping up the potency of hope and glorifying suffering via virtuous rewards in the afterlife.

But of course that is all to serve an important purpose that has nothing to do with humanitarian causes. It is to promote the network's celebrity talents, as well as its programs.

To quote a network executive: "When people come home at night, they are exhausted and do not want to think. They've dealt with enough problems at work, so would they want to see more? Television is the only relief in their dull, semi-oddized lives. They want only things that are pleasing to their eyes and soothing to their nerves. So you offer them programs that will not cut their brains. You can show them, perhaps, that others suffer more than they do but get rewarded with incredible fortune in the end. In short, you amuse them; you don't make them feel worse."

The result of this operating philosophy is very evident in the landscape of commercial broadcasting. Programs have become... well, more of the same. Programming grids are anchored to ill-standard templates, regardless of what channel you favor on a daily basis.

Like an High-energy noontime show/road to the first leg of primetime to the afternoons, followed by early evening news... and then a longer stretch of telenovelas, finally ending with the late night news. The rest of the face is tolerant within whatever time is left till the blessed Anahaw is played, ushering in the coma hour.

Predictable

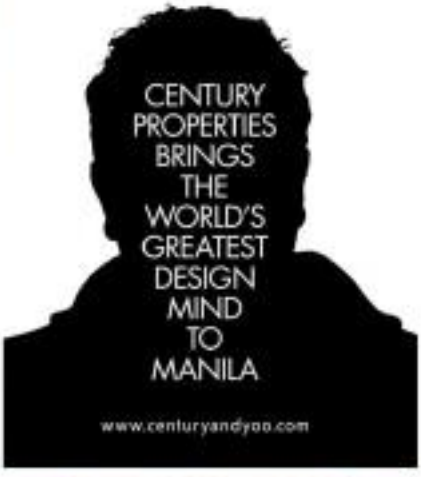
As if this predictability wasn't enough, secondary scraps operate under likewise savvy the network's signature. The style and content of television are sexual descriptions of the ideality established and enshrined by the stations as they cling it out with rivals for a bigger share of the mass audiences.

If televisions are measured to be zombies who gravitate to the TV sets armed with clickers, then it's easier to understand why commercial TV has become what it is.

Competition is made stiffer now, considering the size of the generalized economic pie. Peers to only so much advertising money, measured against growing production costs, that risk-taking has become tantamount to humbuse. Innovation has become too big a gamble. So ideas are recycled, regurgitated and repackaged to appear new, spotlighting redistributed stars of various degrees of illumination to imply significance to the

(NEXT)

'When people come home at night, they are tired and do not want to think, having dealt with problems at work. Would they want to see more?'



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From idiot box...

From page F1

supposedly new, earth-shaking, trend-setting productions.

But after the pilot episode, we realize that the show's just...again, more of the same. Soap operas stick to exhausted but guaranteed-to-entertain paces by mistaken plots. Big, dark secrets, mistaken identities, lost children and unavailable lovers somehow miraculously are found to cover other story lines.

Comedy...the truly intelligent kind...has become extinct. Nowadays, humor in television is relegated to the same old dog tricks that has been around since TV shows were in black and white, or to comedy's last haunts where mockery or insulting somebody is passed off as wit.

Musical shows have also become predictable with the customary Sunday lunchtime "family sessions". Stay couch potatoes or something to tune up with a TV network guitar, often to subject viewers to scenery montage, the requisite duets, usually loud music, largely rendered songs, over-the-top costumes, and those heartless capacities to look sour, sassy times 10 serving as absence of creditable talent.

Creative decisions

Yes, we do wonder why musicians are given to declare it all—but then, who are we to judge? The bosses must know what they are doing. They own. Hah! Billion-peso profit seems to prove so even.

However, that could be because a big portion of creative decisions are the work of ratio-analysts, market analysts and focus group bunny who treat the creation of shows, from inception to production, as no different from branding and selling, say beer commodities.

So, despite all these reasons to stick to cable or plug on a DVD player to mostly fast-purchase old flicks, our TVs at home, given the waste of live necessities for interest to turn on their sets. Thank heavens there are still shows out there that do not subject brain cells to virtual paralysis.

These shows are in the networks' news channels, which may not have the popular support of the mass base and whose single-digit ratings may not even register on the viewership radar.

These are the shows that have braved years of programming deterioration, the result of compromises to make shows sell, sell and sell, not only to the public but more so to advertisers.

A good number of shows on news channels validate the existence of the counter-cultural networks. Without these news channels, free TV seems devoid of a sense of responsibility to enlighten and not merely entertain, to educate and not merely amuse. To think that these news programs and special features are not expected to generate income because they are ostensibly directed to be unaffected by Ming Ching reappearance or rumor-unpardoned.

But it is through the persistence of shows that makes them credibility in pre-sensitive beyond the periphery of show biz gossip that TV still serves a worthwhile purpose. Programs like Senate Seller, Cor Dalisi, Mike Enriquez, The Boondocks, Judy Ann Wahlen, Linda Jocelle and veteran like Tina Monzon-Palma—to even the extraordinary Lourd de Veyra—remind us that news and current affairs should be more than just a bunch of dudes in suits or ladies wearing jewels, reading from a Teleprompter.

There is no book that says the qualities of important facts or the study of significant political, social or even popular personalities cannot be entertaining. Hosts of such facilities should be given more credit, so that they may be made more accessible even to the general audience.

The idiot-ridden by news and current af-

PEOPLE'S

Megaworld Lifestyle Malls — Entertainment Guide

Newport Cinemas

1 Wreck it Ralph
9:30am • 11:55am • 1:00pm • 3:00pm • 5:00pm • 6:00pm
Skyfall
7:00pm • 9:45pm • 12:30mn

2 Skyfall
9:00am • 11:55am • 2:40pm • 5:30pm • 8:20pm • 11:10pm

3 Skyfall
8:20am • 12:10pm • 3:05pm • 5:55pm • 8:40pm • 11:30pm

4 Suddenly It's Magic
9:00am • 11:20am • 1:40pm • 4:20pm • 6:50pm • 9:20pm • 12:15mn

Ray tickets now for Breaking Dawn - Part 1 in Megaworld Cinemas! Ayala, Opens Nov. 15

Buy tickets online at www.megaworldlifestylemalls.com

DOLBY DIGITAL

Fairwood Cinemas

1 Secret Affair
11:00pm • 2:30pm • 4:30pm • 6:40pm • 8:30pm • 11:00pm

2 Fabric Awaking Chronicles 2D
2:10pm • 4:30pm

3 Skyfall 2D
6:50pm • 10:00pm

4 Skyfall
2:00pm • 5:10pm • 8:20pm • 11:30pm

5 Suddenly It's Magic
2:20pm • 5:05pm • 7:35pm • 10:05pm

6 Wreck it Ralph
1:50pm • 4:00pm • 6:10pm • 8:20pm • 10:30pm

7 Skyfall 2D
1:30 • 4:50pm • 7:50pm • 11:00pm

Skyfall
1:00pm • 4:10pm • 7:20pm • 10:30pm

Upcoming events at FAIRWOOD CITY
Sponge Cola LIVE!
Nov 3 • 7PM
Jack TF's Jack n Roll — Nov 10 • 1PM
Martin Nievera LIVE! — Nov 10 • 7PM

Cinemas

1 Suddenly It's Magic
10:30am • 1:00pm • 3:30pm • 5:40pm • 7:45pm • 10:00pm

2 Secret Affair 2D
10:00am • 12:00pm • 2:00pm

Skyfall 2D
4:00pm • 7:00pm • 10:00pm

3 Wreck it Ralph 2D
10:20am • 12:40pm • 3:00pm • 5:20pm • 7:40pm • 10:00pm

4 Skyfall
10:30am • 1:30pm • 4:30pm • 7:30pm • 10:15pm

LUCKY CHINATOWN
FORTUNE Hot Snack Preview
Piano Teacher's Guild
Nov. 11 • 3PM

VENICE PIAZZA AT MCKINLEY HILL
Jack LIVE!
Nov 10 • 7PM
Martin Nievera LIVE!
Nov 11 • 7PM

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: WRECK-IT RALPH (2D)
2: SKYFALL
3: SKYFALL
4: LAWLESS: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
5: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
6: SKYFALL(2D)
7: A SECRET AFFAIR

GREENBELT 1
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKYFALL

GREENBELT 3
1: SKYFALL
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: A SECRET AFFAIR
4: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
5: SKYFALL

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: SKYFALL
2: SKYFALL (2D)
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
5: A SECRET AFFAIR

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: SKYFALL
2: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: A SECRET AFFAIR

MARQUEE
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC

MARKET! MARKET!
1: SKYFALL (2D)
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U JAMIE
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
5: SKYFALL
6: A SECRET AFFAIR
7: THE FABRIC OF THE ASWANG CHRONICLES

TRINOMA
1: SKYFALL (3D)
2: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: LAWLESS: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
5: A SECRET AFFAIR
6: SKYFALL
7: SKYFALL

ABREEZA
1: SKYFALL (3D)
2: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: A SECRET AFFAIR
5: SKYFALL
6: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
7: SKYFALL

HARBOR POINT
1: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SKYFALL

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MALL EVENTS

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MARKET! MARKET!
Olympic World Sale
November 2-4/Activity Center

TRINOMA
Greyson Chance: Catch This Platinum Selling Artist
November 11/6:30 pm/Activity Center

MARQUEE
Bumper to Bumper Car Show
November 3-4/Activity Center

ABREEZA
SPMC Event
November 8

GREENBELT
The Villages of Ge
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The undead walk anew

By Oliver M. Palombarb
Contributor

THE HIT horror series "The Walking Dead" returns to the small screen, seven months after the conclusion of its second season.

The first-favorite cable adaptation of creator Robert Kirkman's acclaimed comic book, "The Walking Dead," is back for a third season.

Its first new episode was launched locally at the Fredericton 48-Hour in Tagalog last month.

Airing on cable channel Fox in the Philippines more days after each episode's United States premiere, the show features a more hardened band of human survivors facing an unrelenting zombie apocalypse.

The group of survivors, led by former cop Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) discovers a possible new sanctuary—an old prison now overrun with undead guards and convicts, Rick and his group, armed with nonlife-ending weapons, efficiently deal with the perpetually hungry occupants.

Meanwhile, resident sniper Andrew (Laurie Holden), who got separated from the group, is aided by the Asian-wielding Michonne (Danai Gurira). The two tough women also seek a fortified haven, recalling herds of zombies chasing their long foraging tracks.

Season three will introduce a new human "tribe," led by the mysterious Governor (David Morrissey).

Fans of the comic book have been eagerly awaiting the addition of Michonne and the Governor to the live-action series, as the charismatic figure is some of the source material's darker storylines. But it isn't always patterned after the monthly title; different exclusive changes and previously unseen characters often keep the show unpredictable.

"The Walking Dead" airs Saturdays, 8:35 p.m. on Fox.

* * *

'True Blood' season five

The fifth season of supernatural drama series "True Blood" airs Thursdays, 10 p.m., on HBO.

The show stars Anna Paquin as telepathic waitress Sookie Stackhouse, and Stephen Moyer as her erstwhile vampire lover Bill Compton. Season five introduces the mystery of the vampire "goddess" Lilith.

Backyard buffies

"We Have Been Warned," a six-part series that airs this month on Discovery Channel, breaks new ground as the first non-government sponsor program.

The show scours the world wide web and the globe to track down the top 20 backyard buffies—from the cleverest, funniest, most daring, outrageous to just downright bizarre, who take things into their own hands and now everyday objects into astonishing science.

So, what does it take to be an Internet sensation?

The show features a panel of the world's best internet experts to explain the stunts and experiments with the help of amazing storytelling graphics.

Or, "We Have Been Warned," more backward-talking girls in America, human-powered flying machines in Canada, monkey whisperers who can hypnotize chickens, an amazing female fireman pop-corn maker that pops all kernels at one go in one mighty explosion, a New Zealander who built a robot rock band, Kimchi's very own Evel Knievel who flies (three times higher than a passenger) jet cars, Edgar the robot from the United Kingdom, and much more.

The show starts airing on Fri day, Nov. 16 at 10 p.m., with encores on Monday, 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 p.m., Thursday at midnight and 2 p.m., Saturday

"MANKIND: The Story of All of Us"

"WALKING Dead"

8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m., and Sunday, 7 p.m.

Filipino audience

Joel Avenue's new look aims to capture its primary target audience—Filipino women aged 29 to 39, who enjoy a balance between work and life.

The channel caters to balanced offering of entertainment, information and lifestyle shows to a whole host with its newest on-air campaign, "A Touch of Life."

Joel Avenue homebased its lineup programming lineup with its four new program blocks: **Mondays Get Real** is its reality-based and lifestyle block with "Top Chef" and the new celebrity documentary series "Who Do You Think You Are?"; **All-in-the Family Tuesdays** is the comedy and light drama block that boasts family shows such as "Kubrapusoy" "Mommyhood" and the new "Hello Peter"; **Happy Fridays** is a weekend-friendly block with light and fun shows such as "How I Met Your Mother" the brand-new comedy "Bits and Bats" and the new season of "Men of Dixie"; and lastly, **Sweet-repeat Sunday** block features its finest comedies all in one night with fresh episodes of "Modern Family" season 4 and

"THE WEDDING Band"

new series "The Next Removal."

Brain narrates 'Mankind'

"Mankind: The Story of All of Us," which chronicles the story of the brutal fight for humanity, airs on History network on Mon. 10:00 9 p.m.

The six-part series, which took two years to make, is narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Josh Brolin.

This programming event is one of the most in-depth television series produced by History channel. "Mankind" is the first-ever global series premiere on the network's history, as well as a worldwide educational initiative.

Highly ambitious in cinematic vision, "Mankind" uses CGI technology and dramatic reconstruction to bring the most extraordinary events in human history to life, as never seen before.

Wedding rock stars

"The Wedding Band," bell!'s new comedy series, follows three rocking and colorful musicians of three guys who live it up by making weddings and events as a band.

Premiering Nov. 16 and airing every Friday at 8:30 p.m. as a newsweek-as the US telecast, the hour-long comedy series stars Beau Astbi (Jesse Jobe) a street-wise singer Fred (Andrew Bell), Harold Fitzsimons, Peter Gardos and Derek Miller as four buddies—three single, one married and all with day jobs—who escape their daily grind by playing "weekend rock gods" to bride's private wedding and event band, Mother of the Bride.

From 'idiot box' to national painkiller

from page F3

time people go beyond being molded by fate in a mold or being subjected to an emotional grinder to push a demands scene to new heights. For the record, those people risk their very lives, and venture into places where others dare not wander.

If only for that, shows like, for instance, "Triller'n Pipol" (ABS), should be supported, not only because of its issue of commitment, but for the manner in which personalities are humanized without being idolalized and analyzed in the context of a given point of evolving history.

For instance, the efforts to Jesse Robredo after the good secretary's untimely death was rendered with great care, not dedying the man, but celebrating him for what he was best at—being a public servant committed to serving the common people.

Are as interesting were "Pipol" episodes featuring the son of former Presidents who are now senators: Jinggoy Estrada and Bongbong Marcos. Those episodes analyzed the phenomenon of sons inheriting the burden of history as well as family legacy.

It is possible to turn television into a stimulus, even an agent for active change. By the same token, it is possible to have good shows, not only on news channels but on the mainstream channels as well. It is important to make the audience think, instead of making them believe that staring in a state of mindlessness or senseless drama's preferred them from having better lives. Because it does.

2nd JOLLIBEE FAMILY VALUES AWARDS

Sharing time, talent, and blessings to spread cheer

Guzman Family
Tondo, Manila
Winner – Metro Manila

"We are just stewards of God's gifts, and it is our duty to use them to bring joy and hope to those in need," says the Guzman family. Emiliano, Amicia, and their daughters Anne Gabrielle and Anne Mirielle have made it their advocacy to uplift the lives of children – particularly those stricken with poverty and afflicted with cancer – by generously sharing their time, blessings and talents.

For 16 years, the Guzmans have been conducting storytelling, art therapy, and gift-giving activities for beneficiaries in Pandacan and Tondo. The family built a small library at the Cancer Institute of the Philippine General Hospital to provide a place of retreat for young cancer patients and their parents. They were also instrumental in raising funds for the Palliative Care Unit in the hospital, which was completed last year. "Tondo nursing undergoes ng improved care ang mga bata during their difficult experience," shares Amicia.

Each member of the family plays an active role in their advocacy. Emiliano, a civil engineer, and Amicia, a corporate secretary, team up in organize activities and coordinate with donors, while their daughters Anne Gabrielle, 20, and Anne Mirielle, 19, use their talents in dancing and writing to bring smiles and comfort to the kids. Gabrielle, a ballerina, performs to entertain cancer patients while influencing her friends to do the same. For her part, Mirielle has published a children's book where she was set to raise funds for the family's programs and also recently organized her own charity event with her friends.

The Guzman family considers being recognized as one of the five exemplary families in the 2nd Jollibee Family Values Awards a great honor and a humbling experience. "Still, this is not about us. Every family has a calling at naghahanap lang na isa kami sa mga napamili," says Emiliano.

At present, the Guzmans are busy handling the refurbishment of the prayer room and chapel of the PGH Cancer Institute. They are also looking forward to perform their role as lolly Family Tree hosts this Christmas season, committing to help collect and distribute toys and books for the 18th Jollibee Magsaya ang Pasko. In addition, the family is dedicating a portion of their prize money to hold a Christmas party for their beneficiary kids.

"Nung una ang naghihingi ng host sa parte mo, yun ang magandalo sa 'yo kung ang objective mo dito sa mundo," shares Amicia. "And for our family, this is our calling."

> "We want to do our part to remind people that, in the difficult times in their lives, somebody is looking out for them."

The Guzman family extended the generosity of the spirit, bringing team Amicia to the cancer and the sick.

The Guzmans uplift the lives of kids stricken with diverse conditions.

ENTERTAINMENT

Vilma's age-defying secret

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

'Leaving a positive legacy and growing old gracefully are more important than numbers'

BIRTHDAY girl Vilma Santos doesn't seem to get older. She only gets better. I see in her the [illegible] I want to be. Poise-if she grew up in the biz, the system never got to her. Her heart is cosmic pure. Amid all the chaos [illegible] her inspirations, her sincerity is ever much felt. Kindness is a gift she was born with.

How did you spend your birthday (New Y)?

At Hong Kong with my family for five days. Today, I will have an extended celebration with

VILMA'S AGE

CHEER FACTOR

Pink power

QUESTION: Is Mayet Herbert Dantes ready to take the Pinkpao film test: "I'm afraid in terms of same-sex marriage," MAGTANONG KAYO: Jayant San Diego Jr.

ComicRelief

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A LITTLE

PUGAD BABOY

BY PAUL JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE-MOTS

BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE

BY PAWEL KIERON

SEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT

BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUNDRA

BY IRINA COLL

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

			7		5			
		4				1	8	
	5		4	2				7
1	7			9		6		2
		9				1		
4		2		8			9	5
	9			7	4		1	
		6	3			5		
			6		2			

Difficulty Level ▶

Answers to previous puzzle

3	8	1	7	4	5	2	6	9
6	4	5	2	9	3	8	7	1
2	7	9	1	6	8	4	3	5
1	3	8	4	5	9	7	2	6
9	6	4	8	7	2	3	5	1
5	2	7	6	3	1	9	4	8
8	1	3	9	2	6	5	4	7
4	9	6	5	1	7	3	8	2
7	5	2	3	8	4	6	1	9

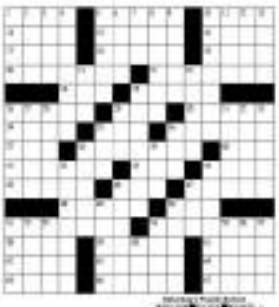
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

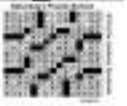
Across

1 Garbage dumping
5 Desert animal
10 "Gilligan's Island" actress
14 Subtitle
15 Of three ill
16 Ms. Ryder
17 Chief Nunes deity
18 Mountain range
19 Without spirit (abbr.)
20 Clergy
21 Sweet with Sheban or Tea
24 Tyke
25 Parker's creations
26 Ancient hemisphere
27 Obliquely
28 Rushed to bathroom
29 Origin Charlie Lin
30 Bird sounds
31 Ice cream
34 Apartment, locally
35 Suffix for measure or sky
36 Tree variety genus
38 Guitar like
39 Cardboard's Chloe
40 Cabbage based salad
41 Dishes
44 Promised
45 Prefix for school or heat
51 Burned
52 Prefix for serenity goodn't (pl.)
53 Mischievous
54 Heyday
55 Word of agreement
56 City in Italy
57 Flower or tree
58 Constant
59 Liquid and ice water
60 Transmits
61 North American Indian

Down

1 Return on a net sign
2 Ice cream
3 Dolt (abbr.)
4 Bitter and tired
5 Gravity
6 Ewe
7 Baby
8 King Kong, for one
9 No ___ Hombres of
10 Mexican specialties
11 Paragraph
12 Ms. Mitchell of Co.
13 Merry ___ England
21 Fewest amount
22 Relative
23 Animated
24 Bounces a coin
25 Mediterranean
27 Alibi
28 Ms. Gabor
29 Woody Jensen
31 Prostate
32 Stomach ailment
33 Spores
34 Mini-like creature (pl.)
36 Ms. Lee or Reid
38 Place for dressing
39 Reward
40 Businessmen
41 Ventilation
42 Ms. Kudrow
43 Eat
47 "I Know Rally" host
48 Intensely
49 Sandpiper
50 Tumultuous
51 Salmon
53 Adjutant
54 Former president
56 Ismaili Shabby
57 Ms. of Jacob's sons
58 Ms. ___ Gabor





From serial killer to YouTube star

LOS ANGELES—"Dexter" star Michael C. Hall has always been attracted to exciting edge projects, so it's no surprise to see the actor who plays the blood spatter analyst/serial killer gear up to the dark comedy Web series "Back & Once."

Starring "SNL" Moses Taiwiry as a lonely middle-aged woman trying to deal with her increasingly frail parents, the 15-episode show debuted last month on Wifely, YouTube's No.1 channel for scripted fiction.

Hall, who won a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild award for his role as "Dexter" and who previously appeared in "Six Feet Under," has joined the "Both & Once" cast as Trevor's lover, ex-drug addict cashier and would-be boyfriend.

Hall, 41, spoke with Reuters about portraying gears for a new comedic role, the new season of "Dexter," and bad haircuts.

MICHAEL C. Hall plays a cunning murderer in "Dexter."

This is not your usual TV show—was that the appeal?

Absolutely. The format is unique and you can tell the story in much briefer chuncks [sic] than on series TV. Each one is just three to seven minutes long, and I did three of them. And then there's the amazing cast, the fact that it won't take over your life for five or more years if it's successful! I like a network show, and the writing (by "Party of Five" executive story consultant) was so strong and interesting.

The lover realizes is another juicy role for you. How much of you is there in him?

Laughs) I'm not as organized or handsome as maybe the revenge potions, and I can certainly relate to his general disheveledness.

Your character's found is a nice touch. Whose idea was that?

I just happened to have one when they called me about this, and Amy and I just decided it fit the character.

Despite the humor, the show tackles some serious issues: aging parents, illness, healthcare.

Exactly, it tackles those issues by humorous from almost getting

FOLLIES de Mendoza: Resorts World's Newport Theater introduces to a bigger audience its lavish brunch of talented performers, choreographer and resident director Eric Mendoza (right, in Japanese costume). Guest stirrers: another (left) is a new addition to the troupe's champ trio who's been dancing since 1998 at Club Mendoza Mandaluyong.

Mandaluyong's Vegas-style revue finds bigger stage

THE BEST thing about Follies de Mendoza's ongoing special season at Resorts World's Newport Theater is that hippie and insecure will get to see how hard this small but exceptional troupe has worked for their praises.

Follies is the resident cooperate at Club Mendoza on Boni Avenue in Mandaluyong. Its members are a merry mix of guys and girls, and a big part of the show's attraction is the in-between-the-opening gains.

The continuously evolving presentation is no half-baked pic, either. Follies creator-director Eric Mendoza is a complete artist and company leader. He conceptualizes every single one of the extravagant numbers, all the sets and all the costumes. He choreographs the dances and is a masterful and classy impersonator himself. The world isn't just Resorts should experience this Pan Catholic.

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Best of all, the talented, humorous girls and guys of Follies are obviously happy to show their wares on that dream come true platform in a highly visible, incredibly busy tourist destination. Their enthusiasm is exciting and infectious.

Follies de Mendoza takes the Newport stage Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of the month. Patrons and future diners, they perform in the resto's delicious cuisine resort that is Club Mendoza, which Novotel and parkers Peabody Mallilin runs. Call 532-2626 or 838-7942. — Rowan G. Velarde

Nikki Cayabyab leads the lineup of performers on Nov. 9 at the "Digna" event line in Diamond.

Christian music

Contemporary Christian music singer-songwriter producer Jim Moss performs in the concert series "God Will Make a Way! Philippine Tour 2012," on Nov. 8 (Grand Seminary Gymnasium), Nov. 10 (Dalubhasaan Silangan Gym, Taguig) and Nov. 11 (PRISM Gym, Bonifacio).

After a stint as a musician for Sixty Line Ministries in the late '70s and early '80s, Moss joined Integrity Inc., authors of the "Hosanna! Music" praise-and-worship album series, in 1984.

As worship leader, he produced 11 volumes in the series, including the first album, "Hosanna! Music: Give Thanks," which became the label's bestseller.

Call 911-5555 for the Smart Araneta ticket, 0920.3656876 or 0921.2847963 (Taguig) and 09.15.4041107 or 0999.3759950 (Batangas).

AMERICAN rock band Creed performs on Nov. 11 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

SANDWICH sisters Ryan Cayabyab and sister Pinoy enters at "Digna," a two-day event, but in Diamond's.

ARTISTIC! performs on Nov. 14, the second day of the "Digna" event line.

AMERICAN jazz guitarist Lee Ritenour

GERMANIC composer and arranger Dave Grusin

Dumaguete music fest

The all-Pinoy music festival-camp website Radio Republic presents "Digna!"—a two-day event in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.

The event is part of the city's biggest festival which will run from Nov. 9 to 18.

The concerts kick off with "Afterglow Live" featuring Nikki Cayabyab and Jay Durias on Nov. 9 at Father Louis Classical Hall, St. Paul's University.

On Nov. 10, Rizal Boulevard will be closed off at 4 p.m. to accommodate an all-night street party featuring Pinoy Dependers, Grupo Fiasco, Armstrong, Quest, Politik, Sandwich, Rico Blanco, and DA Band and many more.

The Fray at Big Dome

The Fray, an American pioneer rock band from Denver, Colorado, performs on Nov. 10 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Formed in 2002 by school-mates Isaac Slade and Joe King, the band achieved success with the release of its debut album, "How to Save a Life," in 2005.

Its first single, "How My Head (Cable Car)," became a Top 20 hit in the United States. The release of its second single, "How to Save a Life," brought the band worldwide fame. The song went to No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The group's self-titled follow-up album, released in 2009, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard chart.

"The Fray" was one of the many band nicknamed to its music has led critics to compare the band with British piano-driven bands like Coldplay and Keane. However, the band lists its influences as "the Beatles, Bruce, Counting Crows, Better Than Ezra and U2."

Creed at Araneta, too

American rock band Creed performs on Nov. 11 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Composed of lead vocalist Scott Stapp, lanist Brian Marshall, drummer Scott Phillips and guitarist-vocalist Mark Tremonti, the band has sold more than 50 million albums worldwide. Some of its hits include "What's Apps Wide Open," "My Sacrifice," "Higher," "What If," "What's That Like For" and "Are You Ready?"

Though regarded by many as a Christian rock band because some of their love songs tackle themes such as morality and faith, the band has never claimed to be one and, in fact, has never signed to a contemporary Christian music label.

For VIP tickets, meet-and-greet sessions and other details, call 912-3860 or 0920-2800999.

ANOTHER US rock group, The Fray performs on Nov. 10, also at the Big Dome.

Ritenour, Grusin at PICC

Please Join and the Philippine International Jazz Festival Foundation present Lee Ritenour and Dave Grusin on Nov. 23 at the Plenary Hall of the PICC in Roxas City.

Ritenour is an American jazz guitarist who has recorded over 45 albums, appeared on more than 3,000 recordings as session, and charted over 30 instrumental and vocal contemporary jazz hits since 1976. One of his most popular songs was the 1981 hit "Is It You." Gabor Pinter singer-guitarist has a Lifetime Achievement award in 2004.

Grusin is an American composer, arranger and pianist who has composed many scores for feature films ("The Graduate," "Sydney Pollack," "Twister") and television ("The Andy Williams Show," "Bonnie," "St. Elsewhere") He has won an Academy Award and 12 Grammys.

In the late '70s he formed GRP Records with his partner, Larry Rosen, and began to create some of the first commercial digital recordings.

In 1988 Grusin and Ritenour collaborated on the Grammy-winning album "Harlequin."

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